FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 33 *16 February 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

VOP: Bus Explosion Marks Escalation of Activities A 1 1/A6
VOP Report on Explosion A 2 1/A7
As-Sa'iqah Claims Responsibility A 2 1/A7
Reportage on ICATU Conference in Kuwait A 2 1/A7
Report on Egyptian Withdrawal A 2 1/A7
Iraqi Delegate's Speech A 3 1/A8
Iraqi Delegation Withdraws A 3 1/A8
Arab Labor Organization Postpones Conference A 4 1/A9
Conference Prepares As-Sadat's Bill of Indictment A 4 1/A9
'Arafat Receives Message From Turkish President A 4 1/A9
West Bank Mayor Tells AFP of Weizman Threats [VOP] A 5 1/A10
PLO's Muhsin Interviewed on Steadfastness Front [Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 9 Feb 78] A 5 1/A10
PLO Praises Saudi Support of Palestinian Cause A 9 1/A14
Arabs, British Set Up Joint Arms Company A 10 1/B1
Riyad Chairs Meeting on Arab-African Aid A 10 1/B1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Iranian Economic Delegation Received by Amir C 1 1/B2

SAUDI ARABIA

Emissary Carrying Messages to Arab Leaders C 1 1/B2
Interior Minister Receives Qatari Counterpart C 1 1/B2
'UKAZ Defines Peace in Mideast, Horn of Africa [14 Feb 78] C 1 1/B2

UAE

Minister, Foreign Envoys Discuss Mutual Relations C 2 1/B3

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF Secretary General Receives DPRK Delegation C 2 1/B3

EGYPT

Egyptian Response to Kenyan Interception of Plane D 1 1/B4
Ghali, Kenyan Envoy Meet D 1 1/B4

Two Kenyan Planes Impounded D 1 1/B4
As-Sadat Sends Thank You Cable to President Carter D 1 1/B4
Cairo Press Reviews U.S. Plane Sale Decision D 1 1/B4
U.S. Ambassador Eilts Returns to Cairo 15 Feb D 3 1/B6
Egypt Reaffirms No Separate Peace With Israel D 3 1/B6
Ghali Receives U.S. Jewish Delegation 15 Feb D 4 1/B7
Cairo Papers Report As-Sadat To Tour Canal Area D 4 1/B7
Agreements With U.S. Companies on Sinai Drilling D 4 1/B7
[AL-AHRAM 13 Feb 78]

IRAQ

Iraq, GDR Issue Joint Statement After Economic Session E 1 1/B8
[East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 11-12 Feb 78]
Saudi Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Baghdad E 2 1/B9
Delivers Message to Al-Bakr E 2 1/B9
Concludes Visit E 2 1/B9
Iraqi-Eritrean Talks Continue in Baghdad E 2 1/B9
Syrian Nationalist Party Leader Arrives in Baghdad E 3 1/B10
Transport Minister Leaves for Talks in Jordan E 3 1/B10
Naturalized Citizens Exempted From Active Service E 3 1/B10

JORDAN

Iraqi Transport Minister Arrives for Talks F 1 1/B11
Papers Comment on U.S. Arms Deal to Arab Countries F 1 1/B11
Crown Prince Hasan Speaks to Labor Leaders F 2 1/B12
AR-RA'Y Criticizes U.S. Stand on Israeli Settlements F 3 1/B13

LEBANON

Sarkis Signs Law on Formation of Security Court G 1 1/B14
Chamber of Deputies Praises Role of Syrian Forces G 1 1/B14
Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus Receives Ambassadors G 1 1/B14
Voice of Lebanon Reports Minor Incidents During Night G 2 1/C1
INA Reports Situation in Beirut Relatively Tense G 2 1/C1
Charred Bodies Discovered in Well in East Beirut G 2 1/C1

SYRIA

Success of As-Sadat's Washington Trip Questioned H 1 1/C2
Information Minister Interviewed on Lebanon Events H 2 1/C3
Syrian Communist Party Attacks Settlement Line [VOAS] H 3 1/C4
Interior Minister, Security Officers Leave for GDR H 4 1/C5
GDR Ambassador Affirms Solidarity With Arab Cause H 4 1/C5
[East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 13 Feb 78]
Iskandar: Gulf States To Pay for Syrian Arms H 4 1/C5

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Communique Issued on FLN Delegation's Yugoslavia Visit [cross-reference] I 1 1/C6

LIBYA

Jallud Leads Delegation on Official Visit to USSR [cross-reference] I 1 1/C6

MOROCCO

Mouknass Ends Talks With Moroccan Officials I 1 1/C6
Western Somalia Liberation Front Delegation Visits I 1 1/C6

TUNISIA

ILO Official Reports on Meeting With Nouira I 2 1/C7
L'ACTION: Left Should Forget Ideology, Be Realistic [10 Feb 78] I 2 1/C7

BRIEFS

USSR Delegation in Algeria I 3 1/C8

ISRAEL

Official Report on Prime Minister Begin's Knesset Speech N 1 1/C9
Begin Talks to Jewish-American Newsmen on Settlements, Peace N 4 1/C12
Military Sources Discuss Aircraft to Egypt, Saudi Arabia N 4 1/C12
Defense Minister Confident in IDF's Ability N 5 1/C13
[DAVAR 15 Feb 78]
MA'ARIV Discusses Position on Retaining Sinai Airfields [15 Feb 78] N 5 1/C13
Minister Weizman Meets With Gush Emunim Leaders N 5 1/C13
HA'AREZ Sees Decrease in Congressional Sympathy [15 Feb 78] N 5 1/C13
Carter Suggestion To Flesh Out Settlements Recalled N 6 1/C14
[HA'AREZ 15 Feb 78]
HA'AREZ Correspondent Discusses Sinai Settlement Plans [15 Feb 78] N 6 1/C14
Zippori Discusses Situation in Lebanon at Knesset N 8 1/D2
HA'AREZ Reports on KGB Activity in Israel [15 Feb 78] N 8 1/D2

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

Prime Minister Desai Attends Sydney Conference [cross-reference] S 1 1/D3
Vietnamese Prime Minister To Arrive 24 February S 1 1/D3
Gandhi Refuses To Appear Before Shah Commission S 1 1/D3
Naxalite Group Threatens Russians In India S 1 1/D3
[Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA 11 Feb 78]

BRIEFS

Bangladesh Chief Justice Sworn In; Pakistan Cotton Delegation in Dacca; Bangladesh-Pakistan Cotton Agreement; Bangladesh Bankers Delegation in Karachi; Asian Bank Assistance to Bangladesh; Natural Gas Off Gujarat in India; UN-Indian Food Program Agreement; Indian Radio Network; Indian Foodgrain Stocks; Indian Crude Oil Production; FRG, Swiss Aid to Nepal; Pakistani Sales to Middle East; Pakistani Rice to Iraq; Pakistani Delegation to Brussels; Pakistan Constructs Iranian Vessel; Pakistani Wheat Imports; New Pakistani Martial Law Adviser; Pakistani Political Leaders Released; Pakistani-Yugoslav Trade; Pakistani Rice to Ghana, Madagascar; UK-Pakistan Joint Venture S 2 1/D4

Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-33

1978

FBIS-MEA-78-33
Thursday
16 February 1978
Vol V No 33

COMPLETED

DAILY REPORT

ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

VOP: BUS EXPLOSION MARKS ESCALATION OF ACTIVITIES

JN151902Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1530 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, Tuesday, our fighters carried out a major fedayeen operation in the heart of occupied Jerusalem. Zionist sources themselves have admitted that 2 were killed and 40 others were injured, 5 of them seriously, during this operation. Our Palestinian fighters operating inside the occupied homeland carried out this operation despite the strict security measures taken by the enemy and the many calls by the enemy radio urging the Zionist settlers to remain alert to any Palestinian fedayeen operations in the occupied territory.

A Zionist spokesman had announced over the enemy radio that the Palestinian fedayeen have, in the past few months, reinforced their cells in the occupied territory. The spokesman also falsely claimed that the enemy security departments have succeeded in arresting large numbers of fedayeen. This was just a desperate attempt by the enemy spokesman to reassure the Zionist settlers that the security departments are maintaining security and achieving positive results in this respect.

Undoubtedly, a major operation of this kind--and the enemy is still expected to reveal the number of his casualties in due course, as is always the case--is part of a well-studied plan to intensify all forms of struggle inside the occupied homeland, beginning with outright public resistance to enemy settlements and all manifestations of Zionist occupations and the liquidation of agents who are spying on our people in the occupied homeland and ending with active military operations in most parts of the occupied territory. The enemy leaders have clearly noted all this during the past few weeks [words indistinct].

Needless to say, the escalation of the struggle of our masses and fighters throughout the occupied homeland has attracted the attention of the world at this very moment when U.S. imperialism, Zionism and Arab action are trying to sidetrack our revolution and masses and to find other false and weak leaders who can play the role of liquidating the Palestinian question and the rights of the struggling Palestinian people.

Palestinian revolutionary struggle has intensified in the heart of the occupied homeland to tell the whole world that revolutionary language is the only one understood by the occupation authorities throughout the Palestinian homeland and that the Palestinian reality, backed by the revolutionary rifles and the masses, is the only important reality in this region. Nobody can sidetrack this Palestinian reality or cancel its decisive role in the conflict raging in this part of the world.

Perhaps the Zionist leaders understand this fact better than others. They fear the revolution and continue to use every means to try to crush it and suppress its voice in the world, but it is clear from the Jerusalem operation that the Zionist leaders have failed in their attempts. They will fail even more in the future in the face of our fighters' and masses' creativity and unlimited ability to continue the struggle and invent new ways.

Finally, we hail our struggling masses throughout the occupied homeland for the painful blow which sowed death in the ranks of the Zionist usurpers. The revolution will inevitably triumph.

VOP Report on Explosion

JN151700Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 15[illegible] GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian fighters yesterday set off an explosive charge in one of the buses of the Zionist Egged bus company in occupied Jerusalem, inflicting heavy losses in lives and material on the enemy.

Announcing this in a statement released today, the military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces said:

On the night of 14 February, and after thorough reconnaissance of the target, the group of martyr Khalil Hanna Rizq operating inside the occupied homeland placed an explosive charge consisting of two kilograms of explosives, pieces of iron and a timing device in one of the buses belonging to the Zionist Egged bus company. This bus, which operates on Line 35, was parked in the central bus station when the explosive charge was planted.

The explosive charge went off at 2120 last night when the bus was packed with scores of settlers and Zionist soldiers [words indistinct] in Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. The explosion resulted in the following: Two of the enemy were killed, and about 45 others were injured, 7 of them seriously, including 2 male soldiers and 1 woman soldier. The bus was completely destroyed. The windows of nearby buildings were shattered.

Ambulances rushed to the scene from various parts of Jerusalem to remove the dead and wounded. Zionist security forces cleared the streets of pedestrians and vehicles for fear that there might be other explosives in the vicinity. Scores of Palestinians in the area were held up at roadblocks for interrogation. The fedayeen group carried out its plan successfully.

As-Sa'iqah Claims Responsibility

JN151328Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 February--A responsible source in the "interior office" of the general command of the organization of the popular liberation war vanguards--As-Sa'iqah forces--has stated the following:

In implementation of the instructions issued by the "interior office" of the general command of the As-Sa'iqah forces and within the framework of the plan to ressis As-Sadat's capitulatory policy and the Zionist enemy's expansionist and hostile settlement plans, the group of martyr Hajim al-Hindawi placed timed explosive charges in an enemy bus belonging to the Zionist Egged bus company in occupied Jerusalem. The explosives went off on time on the night of 14 February 1978, destroying the bus and killing or wounding about 40 of the enemy. Our fighters returned safely to their bases.

REPORTAGE ON ICATU CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT

Report on Egyptian Withdrawal

NC132101Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1826 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 February--The Egyptian Federation of Labor delegation withdrew from the opening session of the extraordinary conference of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU], which started its meetings in Kuwait today.

The Egyptian delegation, consisting of 19 members headed by Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid, the deputy chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Labor, withdrew because of the attacks on Egyptian policy made by the delegations of some other Arab countries.

Following its withdrawal, the Egyptian delegation issued a statement saying that the Egyptian Federation of Labor has been horrified by the deterioration in the Arab workers movement and by the magnitude of the methods of domination and ideological attacks adopted by some regional organizations which are members of the confederation. This has turned the confederation and its conferences into platforms for falsely attacking Egypt and the leadership of its labor trade unions led by the Egyptian Federation of Labor.

The statement points to the efforts exerted by the Egyptian Federation of Labor, with some other delegations participating in the conference, to change the ICATU's course and to place it on the right path. However, the efforts to cause a division in the unity of the Arab labor ranks have succeeded in placing obstacles in the path of all efforts exerted by the Egyptian labor leadership. This fact forced the Egyptian delegation to adopt, with great regret, the decision to withdraw from the conference in order to put an end to the political and partisan bickerings and to place the responsibility on those whose only concern is to split the ranks and sow disunity.

Iraqi Delegate's Speech

JN151723Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 February--Muhammad 'Ayish, member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, has said that the Arab working class is called upon to adopt a historic position and revolutionary action to confront everything which harms Arab dignity. This came in a speech delivered by 'Ayish at the extraordinary conference of the ICATU prior to the Iraqi delegation's walkout from the conference. 'Ayish affirmed that while withdrawing from the conference, Iraq adheres to the ICATU statute. He called for the unity of the Arab working class on strong and firm bases remote from blocs which only serve the interests and objectives of the enemies of the Arab nation.

Referring to the current Arab situation, 'Ayish said that the basis of the policy of settlement is readiness to accept, recognize and coexist with the Zionist entity and giving U.S. imperialism a prominent and effective role in the process of the settlement and establishing close relations with it. This is what As-Sadat has blatantly done, he added.

Muhammad 'Ayish said that the Arab masses have great potentials despite the difficult circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. In this respect, he referred to the upheaval in Tunisia and said: This upheaval expressed the depth of the consciousness of the masses in confronting policies which are against the Tunisian masses.

Iraqi Delegation Withdraws

JN151227Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 15 February--The delegation of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions today withdrew from the ICATU extraordinary conference currently being held here.

A delegation spokesman stated that the withdrawal comes because of the stands of delegations of some organizations, which do not conform with the interests of the Arab working class at the current state and have a negative effect on the future of these interests.

The spokesman added that the stands of some of the delegations consist of circumventing the resolutions of the previous Arab labor conference and of the ICATU Central Council--particularly those condemning the capitulatory course adopted by certain Arab regimes concerning settlement with the Zionist enemy--and aimed at emptying them of serious content.

The spokesman further added that the previous meetings of the Central Council had condemned the Syrian regime for its role in liquidating the Palestinian cause, particularly the massacres it committed against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement and its rush toward the settlement course which prepared the ground for As-Sadat's treacherous trip to occupied Jerusalem.

The General Federation of Somali Workers also withdrew from the conference. Its president stated that his delegation withdrew after being convinced that the conference is not proceeding on the normal path toward achieving the interests of the Arab working class.

ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION POSTPONES CONFERENCE

NC132029Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1753 GMT 13 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 February--The Arab Labor Organization officially announced today that it decided to postpone the seventh session of the Arab labor conference, due to be held in the first week of March in Khartoum, until March 1979. The conference will be held in the same place.

A statement issued by the organization today said that the decision to postpone the conference was adopted after having reviewed the current Arab situation through which the Arab homeland is passing and after having taken into consideration the historic responsibility of the Arab Labor Organization in these circumstances to preserve the unity of the Arab labor ranks.

CONFERENCE PREPARES AS-SADAT'S BILL OF INDICTMENT

JN151318Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Na'im Haddad, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and member of the permanent general secretariat of the Arab popular conference, met here today with 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab popular conference. During the meeting, which was attended by several members of the secretariat and Shabib al-Maliki, secretary general of the Union of Arab Jurists, there was a discussion regarding what has already been accomplished in the formulation of traitor As-Sadat's bill of indictment in completion of the legal and technical measures of the trial, in implementation of the resolution passed by the Arab popular conference held in Tripoli at the beginning of December 1977.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM TURKISH PRESIDENT

JN150832Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Turkey has reaffirmed its support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their rights in their homeland.

The Palestinian news agency has reported that this affirmation was contained in a message received by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Turkish President Fahri Koruturk. The agency added that the message is a reply to the message 'Arafat had sent to the Turkish president. It should be noted that Turkey has agreed to open a PLO office in Ankara.

WEST BANK MAYOR TELLS AFP OF WEIZMAN THREATS

JN1317462 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother Karim Khalaf, mayor of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, has affirmed that he has received threats from 'Ezer Weizman, Zionist war minister, who accused him of being behind all acts of protest against the occupation currently being carried out by the Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank.

In a statement to an AFP correspondent in Amman, Khalaf said the he is subjected to threats from the Zionist occupation authorities and that a few days ago he received a letter bomb mailed to him from Tel Aviv. He also said that the United States is not showing a real desire for a Middle East settlement. He said he rejects As-Sadat's initiative, saying: This initiative has led to an increase in the Zionist settlements in the occupied West Bank and increased Zionist intransigence. Khalaf concluded his statement by saying that As-Sadat's initiative will end in complete failure.

The Ramallah mayor is scheduled to leave Amman today on his way to Algiers as part of a tour during which he will visit Libya, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Doha. Brother Khalaf pointed out that he will explain to the heads of these states the financial difficulties the Palestinian citizens are facing in the West Bank because of the Zionist [words indistinct] restrictions and measures.

PLO'S MUHSIN INTERVIEWED ON STEADFASTNESS FRONT

LD1317172 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 Feb 78 p 18 LD

[Interview granted by Zuhayr Muhsin, member of the Syrian Ba'th Party National Command, head of the PLO Military Department, and member of the Palestinian delegation at the conference of steadfastness and confrontation in Algiers, to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent Faruq 'Abd al-Karim in Algiers on 4 February]

[Text] [Question] I asked Zuhayr Muhsin whether he was expecting any significant results from the Algiers conference following the optimistic mood that prevailed during the first 2 days of the conference.

[Answer] However you look at the outcome of the Algiers conference in this country or elsewhere and regardless of the criteria by which the outcome is viewed, there remains a basic fact which is more important than all results and stands. This fact is Syria's determination to stand fast and to face all challenges and shoulder all the national responsibilities however agonizing, confusing and irresponsible the attitude of others.

Basically Syria, in its commitment to its national stand and its determination to pursue its national policy of opposing capitulation, clearly depends on its intrinsic resources and its people's will.

Syria has no choice now but to depend on these objective calculations and to rely on its strategic and earnest ally--the Soviet Union. This is because one cannot rely on the Arabs alone in anything--either in confronting Zionism or in defending the Palestinian problem. We must admit that in the 30 years since the establishment of the Zionist entity, the Arabs have not yet developed a serious and mature sense of the Zionist danger and that no real will power has yet developed to face this danger despite the fact that it threatens the Arab nation day and night, this nation which is being humiliated and oppressed daily and is being constantly threatened with annihilation.

[Question] I said: I see that you are pessimistic despite the fact that the Arabs are optimistic about the expansion of the front of steadfastness and confrontation to include other countries that have not yet supported President as-Sadat's policy.

[Answer] The state of affairs of the Arabs who claim to be nationalists, progressives, unionists and socialists and raise similar slogans of nationalism and revolution is not much better than the others who openly declare their allegiance to the United States and their enmity to progressiveness and other national and patriotic trends. In fact, it could be worse in some cases because some of those who hide themselves behind such slogans are always more capable of deceiving the masses, oppressing them and misleading them. They are also more capable of finding excuses for evading national responsibilities and placing their countries' resources in the service of the national cause.

Anyone who reads the memorandums and messages of these progressive people and hears their statements and the manner in which they talk when serious problems are put to discussion is bound to feel greatly disappointed and frustrated. One can reach the painful conclusion that As-Sadat is not a dissident individual in this nation and that he is not a mere adventurer who started from a void. Rather it appears that he acted on the basis of an intimate and thorough knowledge of the real attitudes and intentions of the Arab parties, which are supposed, or rather it is their duty, to immediately provide Syria with the capabilities that would make up for the loss of the Egyptian front, capabilities that would enable it to stand in the face of the enemy and confront his ambitions and challenges.

But it appears that As-Sadat's view of these Arab parties has proved to be more correct and based on inside information since it has become clear that some of the regimes that indulge in outbidding--the foremost of which is Iraq--have a specific role to play. Not satisfied with withholding support for the Syrian front, they go so far as to attempt to prevent support from reaching this front from any other quarter. They seek to deliberately further complicate problems with Syria every time the crisis with the enemy becomes more serious so as to exhaust Syria, undermine its people's will to stand fast and force it to succumb and join As-Sadat's capitulatory policy. According to the estimates of these quarters, the collapse of the Palestinian struggle and the disintegration of the Palestinian revolution will then become a foregone conclusion.

[Question] But could such pressures force Syria to go back on its steadfast stand?

[Answer] Once again I would like to reaffirm that despite the agonies of this tragic situation nothing can change the firm and serious stand Syria is committed to.

Syria is determined to bear the consequences of this stand to the end, including the shouldering of its national responsibilities of defending the Palestinian revolution in general, supporting the Palestinian armed struggle, and strengthening the means of the Palestinian masses' steadfastness by relying on itself, on the allliance of the Palestinian revolution with it and on the alliance with the Soviet Union, which is almost the only source of material power for such steadfastness.

This Syrian and Palestinian willpower will remain strong and nothing will shake it. It will not be affected by the reluctant ones or by the defeatism of those who shun responsibilities, the misleading attempts of the doubtful ones and the sabotage of schemers. It will remain and develop and its role will become even stronger. This will not change Syria's comprehensive responsibility or the heavy burdens that Syria must be prepared to shoulder alone, if nobody will stand with it. Syria must take into consideration the possibility that one day it might have to face Israel alone and, at the same time, confront the Egyptian regime and the difficulties that the other Arabs might create for it, be they from Iraq, Jordan or Lebanon. Syria and the Palestinians must learn from the lesson of Saluddin, who spent a quarter of a century fighting against the Moslem kings before he could turn to fight the Crusaders and defeat them. Otherwise, he would not have been able to defeat the Crusaders, and the Crusaders kingdoms would have remained in our country up to this day.

[Question] Do you expect Arab disruption to one day reach this extent?

[Answer] It is said but it seems inescapable that one day the Syrians and Palestinians will find themselves obliged to fight the Arabs because it appears that this may be an essential condition for them to be able to fight Zionist occupation and confront it after the lie of Arab solidarity has been exposed and after the idea of freezing Arab political and social conflicts in order to face the main conflict with the occupation has failed. Arab solidarity has come to mean covering up for the policy of capitulation and surrender which the Egyptian regime is pursuing. Arab solidarity has now become the vehicle for the beginning of complete Zionist domination of the whole Arab homeland through political means because of the nature of the peace the Egyptian rulers are pursuing and the peace being sought by those who advocate the old imperialist idea that "the principal danger to the area is not Israel but communism."

As-Sadat's regime and other Arab regimes are pushing their countries and peoples toward a fabricated confrontation with the so-called communist danger, or the Soviet tide. These regimes will never be up to confronting this problem, should the Arab division resulting from ignoring the nature of the Zionist danger and of the will of the Arab masses become deeper, to say nothing of ignoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to return to their homes and to establish a national independent state.

[Question] How can an effective front capable of steadfastness and of confronting challenges and conspiracies be set up?

[Answer] As I have already expalined in view of the tragic Arab situation represented in open support for As-Sadat by certain Arab countries, the implicit support by others and support by a third group of countries through outbidding and in view of the failure of those who really oppose President as-Sadat's policy to fulfill their committments to support the Syrian front to the required extent--in view of all this there is no alternative but for an effective ability of steadfastness to be acquired through the only existing and correct formula.

This is represented in the Syrian-Palestinian-Soviet alliance as a central link which will be supported and backed materially and morally, with any means available, by those participating in the front of steadfastness and confrontation and around which the Arab masses everywhere will rally.

The Soviet Union is the world power that is most earnest in opposing imperialism and Zionism and whose interests from this aspect are quite identical with ours.

The theories that were previously adopted in the Arab-Israeli confrontation or in achieving a strategic balance with Israel were based on calculating the total quantitative Arab capabilities and on the assumption that all the Arabs are serious in confronting the Zionist danger and will not hesitate to throw in their military capabilities when the time for the battle comes. This theory came to an end after the 1967 war and was replaced by the theory of relying mainly on the capabilities of Syria and Egypt in the confrontation with the enemy, as well as on the capability of any other power that is not included in calculations of strategic balance.

Therefore, it was on this basis that the decision of the October war was taken, that is, on the basis of the stragegic balance between Egypt and Syria on the one hand and Israel on the other.

But now this theory is no longer applicable, not only since As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territories but also since the end of the October war, and particularly since the signing of the Sinai agreement in 1975--the agreement which formally and unilaterally ended the war between Egypt and Israel--and also because the Egyptian regime has greatly weakened Egypt militarily and halted the development of the armed forces by fabricating a clash and harming relations with the Soviet Union, as well as by its shameful and contemptible flirting with the United States and the continuous reduction of the size of the Egyptian Armed Forces. From all this I would come to the conclusion that it is essential to achieve a strategic balance between Syria alone and the Zionist enemy since it is no longer possible to rely on Egypt or on any other Arab forces that are not present on the front in a serious, steady, comprehensive and continuous manner. The achievement of such strategic balance between Syria and Israel is the central link in the Arab steadfastness in the face of Zionist danger. Syria has a right to resort to all means to achieve this objective, whether the Arabs shoulder their responsibilities and commitments together with it or not and whether they understand this need or not. The Soviet Union must first of all understand this need and respond to it on the grounds that this is a basic and indispensable condition for confronting and defeating imperialism in the area through defeating imperialism's advanced camp, which is represented by the Zionist entity.

Naturally, the other Arabs who are participating in the front of steadfastness and confrontation must fulfill their commitments of giving moral and material support to the Syrian front. Also, all the other Arabs who are capable of giving support must be asked to fulfill their commitments. All those who evade such commitment, whatever the reason or excuse, must be exposed.

[Question] I told the head of the PLO Military Department: There is a certain ambiguity involving the Jordanian stand. Some consider it as supporting As-Sadat's initiative while others consider it as opposing it. What about the Jordanian stand? Does it not have a place in the front of steadfastness and confrontation?

[Answer] I have nothing in particular about Jordan's stand. But, as is well known, the U.S. and Egyptian presidents and the shah of Iran have tried to lure it into supporting As-Sadat's step and to participate in his adventure, despite the fact that the Israeli stand is quite clear with regard to refusing to withdraw from the West Bank. It appears that King Husayn at a certain moment believed that Carter, the shah and others could put pressure on Israel in order to change its attitude toward this question so that it would agree to withdraw from the West Bank in favor of Jordan.

In my opinion, King Husayn and Jordan--despite the positive attitude he showed toward As-Sadat and the Arab backing that As-Sadat tried to gain from the king's stand--will reap nothing from all this. Jordan will discover--and perhaps has already discovered--that all that is requested of it is to provide free services to As-Sadat, Carter and Begin without anything in return. Therefore, I do not think that the king will gamble with his relations with Syria for the sake of illusions, since it is known that he is likely to be more accurate in calculations than As-Sadat.

It has become clear that the Egyptian president has not obtained the minimum of Egypt's rights in Sinai itself. Therefore, the thought that the West Bank and Gaza could be restored through diplomatic means and reliance on the United States, Iran and Egypt is merely daydreaming.

Jordan tried the policy of being a spectator in the October war. It would then have been able--had it entered the war--to restore the whole of the West Bank because no effective Israeli force was deployed on the Jordanian front. But the policy of waiting and watching was of no use to it because the Americans and Israelis gave it nothing in return for this policy other than indulging in building more settlements on the West Bank and further clinging to the perpetuation of occupation of this bank. This tangible experiment was sufficient to prove that there is no way of dealing with the Zionist enemy other than the force of arms and the serious, total and strong alliance with Syria, not only to restore the West Bank and the rest of the occupied territories, but also to protect the east bank itself as well as to protect Iraq, which stands in seclusion behind Jordan and Syria and which turns a blind eye to the reality of the danger that is threatening all, disregarding its responsibilities and thinking that its fingers are far from the fire.

PLO PRAISES SAUDI SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE

LD111336Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The PLO has praised the stance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia concerning the question of the Middle East. It has renewed its confidence in the Saudi leadership, which is always working for the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

This was said in statements by informed Palestinian sources today published by the Qatari AL-'ARAB. They stated that any attempts to create any doubts about the Saudi stance regarding the Palestinian question are destined to fail terribly in view of the clarity of this stance, which has been confirmed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his crown prince, about the kingdom's unrestricted backing for the Palestinian people's struggle. The Palestinian sources stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been committed and still is committed to protecting the Palestinian question and to the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The sources have denied the tendentious reports alleging that the kingdom has no objection to the return of the West Bank to Jordan. Informed Palestinian sources have pointed out that the PLO realizes that there are forces striving to create an atmosphere of suspicion between the organization and some Arab countries. However, the organization realizes the dimensions of all that is taking place.

The sources stressed the depth and soundness of Saudi-Palestinian relations. It says that these relations will remain firm because they stem from accurate Palestinian knowledge and a strong realization of the honorable Saudi stance.

ARABS, BRITISH SET UP JOINT ARMS COMPANY

NC161020Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--An Arab-British company has been formed to set up an industry to produce and sell guided weapons systems, to carry out research and development work related to these systems and to perform all the technical, industrial and commercial functions connected with or related to achieving these objectives. In today's issue the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production and chairman of the Higher Committee of the Arab military industries organization, has endorsed the founding of the new company, which will be called the Arab-British Company for Dynamic Industries. The company will have a capital of 8 million pounds allocated for 8,000 shares at a cost of 1,000 pounds sterling per share. The Arab military industries organization will pay 5.6 million pounds and the British Aircraft Corporation Company Ltd., 2.4 million pounds.

The paper says that the company's headquarters and authorized annex will be located in Cairo. The company, which has a contract that is valid for 10 years, may establish branches or agencies in Egypt or abroad. The company's board of directors will be composed of nine members, six of whom will be appointed to represent the Arab military industries organization and three to represent the British company. The chairman of the board of directors will be chosen from the Arab members. The deputy chairman and the delegate members will be appointed from among the members of the British side. The general assembly will also appoint two auditors, one of whom will be a citizen of a member state of the Arab military industries organization.

RIYAD CHAIRS MEETING ON ARAB-AFRICAN AID

JN140917Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Mahmud Riyad, Arab League secretary general and chairman of the Administrative Board of the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to the African and Arab Countries, left Baghdad this morning on his way back to Cairo after having presided over the meetings of the Administrative Board.

Prior to his departure, Riyad expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Iraqi people and government for the facilities extended for the convening of the current session of the fund in Baghdad. He praised Iraq's role in the field of Arab-African cooperation. He also pointed out that the board decided during its meetings to provide technical assistance to African countries worth approximately $2 million a year. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, minister of industry and minerals.

KUWAIT

IRANIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION RECEIVED BY AMIR

LD152238Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Mr Mohammed Yeganeh, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance, arrived in Kuwait today leading a delegation and met his highness the amir of Kuwait, the heir apparent, the prime minister and also the deputy prime minister and the information minister of Kuwait. The first round of talks of the Iranian delegation, led by Yeganeh; with the Kuwaiti delegation, led by Al-Atiqi, the Kuwaiti minister of finance; took place today and pertained to expanding economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

EMISSARY CARRYING MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS

LD151558Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, under secretary for administrative affairs at the Foreign Ministry, left this afternoon for Baghdad, beginning a tour which will take him to a number of gulf states, Sudan, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Oman. Ath-Thunayyan said before departure that he is carrying messages from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the leaders of these fraternal countries. The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY was told that these messages concern the current Arab situation and the current situation of the Arab nation in light of the diplomatic move by the kingdom to work for unity of the ranks and bring the brothers to speak with one voice.

INTERIOR MINISTER RECEIVES QATARI COUNTERPART

LD111150Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, at noon today received His Highness Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatar's minister of the interior, and the accompanying delegation, who are on an official visit to Saudi Arabia. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations between the two sister countries in various spheres. His Highness Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad al Thani and the accompanying delegation arrived in Riyadh this morning on a 4-day visit to the kingdom in response to the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior.

'UKAZ DEFINES PEACE IN MIDEAST, HORN OF AFRICA

LD151944Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] His Higaness Amir Fahd has clearly defined the road to peace in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. With regard to the achievement of peace in the Middle East, Israel's respect for international legality is the basis for the achievement of such peace. The American role can do a great deal in this regard so that the people of the area can really live within secure borders. It is incumbent upon world opinion to stand in the face of Israeli intransigence which is trying to abort all peace attempts because of the Zionist expansionist ideas that still dominate the political thinking of the Israeli regime. Israel must be made to abandon this expansionist concept and respect the international legality so that peace in the Middle East can be achieved.

Peace in the Horn of Africa is also being exposed to dangers which his higness the amir clearly and strongly underlined. The Soviet Union and its Cuban friends and others who have come to the African Continent are the ones causing instability and spreading tension and disturbances in order to achieve their expansionist and aggressive aims.

This definition of the concept of peace in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa brings to light the undeclared link between what Israel is practicing in the Middle East and what Russia is practicing in the Horn of Africa. But despite these practices, the peoples of the area are capable through their consciousness of thwarting this Zionist-communist plotting, of realizing the dangers surrounding them, and of determining their destinies while fully aware of the conspiracy around them.

The Zionist-communist link wants to complete the belt of domination around the Arabs and Africa, but all these attempts are bound to fail because of the insistence of the peoples of the area to arm themselves with an objective and sound vision of the reality of these dangers.

UAE

MINISTER, FOREIGN ENVOYS DISCUSS MUTUAL RELATIONS

JN131209Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1112 GMT 13 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 February--Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, reviewed during his meeting today with Hachemi Ouanes, Tunisian ambassador in Abu Dhabi, bilateral relations between the two countries and the means of developing them, as well as the situation in the Arab region. The Tunisian ambassador explained recent developments in Tunisia.

The UAE minister also received the Libyan ambassador, 'Abd al-Qadir Ghawqah, and discussed with him several issues of mutual interest.

In addition, the UAE minister discussed with the British ambassador, David Arthur Roberts, preparations for the meeting of the joint UAE-British committee for political and economic cooperation which is to take place in Abu Dhabi on 11 March under the chairmanship of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The UAE minister also met with the Austrian charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi and discussed with him the arrangements for the Austrian foreign minister's visit to the UAE in the second half of March 1978.

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF SECRETARY GENERAL RECEIVES DPRK DELEGATION

LD151544Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front Central Committee, at noon today received Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers Party and vice president of the DPRK. During the meeting Comrade Pak Song-chol conveyed a message of greetings to brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee, from comrade Kim Il-song, secretary general of the Korean Workers Party and president of the DPRK. Matters jointly affecting the two friendly parties and countries were also discussed during the meeting.

EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO KENYAN INTERCEPTION OF PLANE

Ghali, Kenyan Envoy Meet

NC152025Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kenyan authorities have intercepted an Egyptian civilian plane while flying to Somalia carrying certain goods in implementation of old deals.

Meanwhile, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, summoned the Kenyan ambassador in Cairo tonight and asked him for an urgent clarification of the Kenyan interception of the Egyptian plane, in order to preserve the friendly and cordial relations between Egypt and Kenya--two fraternal African states which are anxious to maintain their fraternal relations within the framework of the joint African action and out of their desire to help Egypt carry out its role in mediating between Somalia and Ethiopia.

Two Kenyan Planes Impounded

NC161030Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 February--Egyptian authorities early today held two Kenyan passenger planes in reply to the Kenyan authorities' interception yesterday of an Egyptian civilian plane that was carrying some goods to Somalia.

The first Kenyan plane was on its way from London to Nairobi, while the second was on its way from Cairo to Nairobi. The passengers of the two planes are still in the transit lounge of Cairo airport. Instructions were issued later today permitting the passengers of the two planes to travel on the understanding that Egyptair will transport the passengers to their original destinations.

AS-SADAT SENDS THANK YOU CABLE TO PRESIDENT CARTER

NC151541Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has stressed that his recent discussions with U.S. President Jimmy Carter will have a considerable effect on the peace process so that it will yield the desired fruits in the interest of the peoples in the Middle East.

The president said that these discussions will consolidate the channels of constructive cooperation in various fields between the Egyptian and the American peoples in their mutual interest and in the interest of international security and peace. He expressed confidence that the United States will decisively support right and justice so that the Middle East peoples may enjoy security, tranquillity and prosperity.

This was contained in a thank you cable President Anwar as-Sadat sent to the U.S. President, among several messages that he sent to heads of states which he visited in the recent peace tour, including the United States, Morocco and a number of European states.

CAIRO PRESS REVIEWS U.S. PLANE SALE DECISION

NC160735Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under frontpage banner headlines, the Cairo dailies this morning feature the important statements which President Anwar as-Sadat made to the West German magazine QUICK affirming that he will not expose the world to a new war, particularly now that the whole world has welcomed his peace initiative.

The papers also concentrate on the president's statement that Israel believes that it can forcibly impose its demands because it possesses large quantities of arms in a huge arsenal.

The papers further highlight the contents of the thank you cable which President as-Sadat sent to U.S. President Carter, among several other cables which his excellency sent to the heads of states which he visited during the recent peace tour that included the United States, Morocco and some European states. The papers express particular interest in what the president said in his cable to the U.S. President, to the effect that his discussions in the United States will have a beneficial effect on the peace march which will yield the desired results in the interest of the peoples of the Middle East.

The Cairo papers also comment on the proposed U.S. Government program to supply fighter planes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

AL-AKHBAR refers to the statement by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that the proposed aircraft sales to the three states will contribute to meeting the real defense needs of each state without upsetting the balance of power in the Middle East. The paper says: What Egypt wants from this U.S. aircraft deal is primarily what the U.S. secretary of state has referred to. Egypt's acquisition of such aircraft will break down or cross over the American barrier banning the sale of offensive weapons to Egypt. This will be the first crossing of the barrier which the United States set up over 20 years ago when the crisis over financing the high dam broke out. It developed into a political crisis which led to reliance on the Soviet Union for the acquisition of arms. This reliance turned into a monopoly and the Soviet Union tried to become our guardian and to run our affairs. The Soviet Union adopted its known stand of suspending arms shipments to us. We had to firmly counter this stand. We declared that we would diversify our sources of arms. We proceeded seriously along this course, but the old American barrier continued to exist preventing the United Stated from becoming one of the sources of this diversification.

AL-AKHBAR believes that this is Egypt's aim in obtaining U.S. arms. The Soviet Union is aware of this fact. The Soviet Union wanted this American door to remain shut in our face. This is why the Soviet Union is angry. TASS has come out with a criticism of the U.S. decision to sell the aircraft, saying that represents a new policy aimed at supplying the area of conflict with larger quantities of arms and that the U.S. President has broken his promise to limit arms deals.

Strongly criticizing this Soviet stand, the paper says: The motive for this Soviet stand is the wrath of the Soviet Union because Egypt has found a new source of arms. Access to this source destroys the spiteful monopoly which, it was believed, had been imposed on Egypt forever. If the Soviet Union is angry because of the shipment of these arms to the area of conflict, then what is the purpose of the continuous Soviet bridge to transport all types of offensive and fatal weapons to Ethiopia?

In another article, AL-AKHBAR strongly criticizes the fabricated uproar which Israel is stirring up over the agreement to supply Egypt with 50 F-5 fighter planes. It says that this uproar is completely in line with traditional Israeli propaganda, which seeks to deceive world public opinion, and American public opinion is particular, under the pretext of fear for Israel's security and existence if the Arabs acquire U.S. arms. This uproar is being stirred up despite the fact that the U.S. President's agreement to sell 50 F-5's to Egypt was accompanied by a simultaneous agreement to sell 90 F-15's and F-16's to Israel. This is in addition to the modern aircraft which Israel already possesses.

Despite this, the Israeli political and military commands were quick to express fear over supplying Egypt with this type of aircraft maintaining that this would upset the balance of power in the area to the benefit of the Arabs and threaten Israel's security.

Commenting on this issue, AL-AKHBAR expresses its belief that the slogan of Israel's security has become a dark cloak concealing aims that are far removed from the concept of real security. This slogan is like a labyrinth. Israel wants to push the battle of peace into this labyrinth after marking all exits with a sign saying: "No Exit To Protect Israel's Security."

According to the Israeli concept, everything has become a threat to security--the Palestinian question, removal of the settlements and supplying Egypt with less sophisticated arms than those which Israel possesses. Even the UN resolutions have become a threat to Israel's security. Under the umbrella of this security, the old Israeli planner moves to achieve his aims step by step, first by controlling southern Lebanon and ending with the forcible imposition of settlements on the lands of others. Moreover, this planner insists on depriving Egypt of modern weapons so Israel may remain the largest military power in the area.

The paper stresses that this logic cannot express a true desire for peace and that the most basic rules of international relations confirm that true peace in the Middle East must depend on military balance among the states in the area. The experiment of the negotiations and the Israeli battle of statements have proved that the Israeli negotiator speaks from inside the military arsenal on which he depends and that he wants a peace stemming from this arsenal to draw up the new Israeli map of the Middle East.

U.S. AMBASSADOR EILTS RETURNS TO CAIRO 15 FEB

NC152117Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 February--U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts returned to Cairo this evening from the United States. He had gone to the United States before President as-Sadat's visit to make arrangements for the visit. He was received at the airport by a number of U.S. Embassy staff members.

EGYPT REAFFIRMS NO SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL

NC161032Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has reaffirmed that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt refuses to conclude a separate peace [sulh] with Israel.

In a statement published today by the [UAE] paper AL-ITTIHAD, Dr al-Baz said that a separate settlement with any of the Arab fronts would dissolve before the ink with which it is written dried. Dr al-Baz pointed out that an agreement on the principles of the comprehensive settlement does not mean that agreements regarding all fronts should be signed at the same time. He warned that Egypt cannot continue the negotiations merely for the sake of holding negotiations. He said that the principles of the comprehensive settlement which President Anwar as-Sadat presented in Washington are based on achieving a framework for the comprehensive settlements. The negotiations would then begin among the parties concerned under the umbrella of the comprehensive settlement based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and finding a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian people.

GHALI RECEIVES U.S. JEWISH DELEGATION 15 FEB

NC151913Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with an American Jewish delegation to discuss developments in the Middle East situation.

The leader of the Jewish delegation emphasized the need to achieve a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East crisis and said that the delegation supports the idea of granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination even if this results in establishment of a Palestinian state, provided that Israeli security is preserved.

The meeting was held within the context of the Egyptian diplomatic move to explain the Egyptian viewpoint to the world, particularly following President as-Sadat's tour. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the road to peace is not easy and that patience is required. He said that the declaration of principles which Egypt is seeking is only the first in a series of steps aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis.

CAIRO PAPERS REPORT AS-SADAT TO TOUR CANAL AREA

NC160648Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 February--Cairo newspapers report today that President as-Sadat will begin a 1-week tour of the canal area on Saturday. The newspapers report that this visit will be followed by visits to eight governorates in southern Egypt to inspect housing, food security and desertification projects.

AGREEMENTS WITH U.S. COMPANIES ON SINAI DRILLING

LD151734Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 LD

[Text] An agreement in principle has been reached between the General Petroleum Authority and the U.S. Mobil Oil Company under which the American company will drill for oil in an area covering 1,000 square kilometers in the Sadr district of the Sinai. The company will spend $8.5 million during 8 years of drilling.

This has been announced by Ibrahim Radwan, director of agreements. The agreement will be signed at the end of February. It stipulates that the American company will pay the authority $2.25 million as a signing grant.

Ibrahim Radwan also said that before this weekend a new agreement for oil exploration and exploitation will be signed with the U.S. Continental Oil Company regarding an area of 3,600 square kilometers in the Sinai. The company will spend $24 million over 8 years and will pay the petroleum authority a $3-million signing grant.

IRAQ, GDR ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT AFTER ECONOMIC SESSION

AU151820Y East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 11-12 Feb 78 p 2 AU

[ADN dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The GDR delegation led by Guenther Kleiber, SED Central Committee Politburo candidate member, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and minister of general machine building, agricultural machinery and vehicle building, completed its 7-day visit to Iraq Friday morning and left Baghdad.

Guenther Kleiber and the delegation accompanying him were cordially seen off at the airport by Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] of the Republic of Iraq.

The visit by the GDR Government delegation took place on the occasion of the third session of the Permanent Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the GDR and Iraq. The following joint press statement on the session was released:

The third session of the Permanent Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the GDR and Iraq took place 4-10 February 1978.

Guenther Kleiber, SED Central Committee Politburo candidate member, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman and minister of general machine building, agricultural machinery and vehicle building, headed the GDR delegation.

The Iraqi side was led by Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the RCC of the Republic of Iraq.

During his visit to Iraq, Guenther Kleiber was received for an extensive and friendly exchange of views by Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the RCC of the Republic of Iraq and deputy secretary general of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Guenther Kleiber conveyed most cordial greetings from Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman; and from Willi Stoph, SED Central Committee Politburo member and GDR Council of Ministers chairman, to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, chairman of the RCC of the Republic of Iraq and secretary general of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and to Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the RCC of the Republic of Iraq and deputy secretary general of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as well as to the friendly Iraqi people; Saddam Husayn very cordially reciprocated the greetings.

Guenther Kleiber and Hasan 'Ali met several times for talks in which they deliberated on the further development and promotion of economic relations. Guenther Kleiber also conducted talks with Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president of the Republic of Iraq; members of the Regional Command and the RCC of the Republic of Iraq; Defense minister 'Adnan Khayrallah; and Minister of Planning 'Adnan Hysayn; and with the Ministers of Industry and Mineral Resources Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil and of Agriculture and Land Reform Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

These talks and the third session of the Permanent Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the GDR and Iraq took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

As a result of the third session of the permanent committee and of the deliberations of the subcommittees, Guenther Kleiber and Hasan 'Ali signed an agreement on continuing and deepening economic cooperation and on building major projects for the Republic of Iraq as well as on expanding the volume of trade.

Guenther Kleiber and Hasan 'Ali attended the commissioning of the Shamiya rice-silo plant and of the Abu Sukhair rice mill, supplied by the GDR.

The two sides agreed on holding the fourth session of the Permanent Committee for Economic Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the GDR and the Republic of Iraq in the first quarter of 1979 in Berlin.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN151453Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1448 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived here today on a short visit to Iraq. The Saudi official stated that he is carrying a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN151614Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1608 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has received a message from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with the current situation in the Arab area. The meassage was conveyed by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary, when he was received by President al-Bakr this evening. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Concludes Visit

JN151819Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Shayh 'Abd al-'Aziz ath-Thunayyan, Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary and Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-Aziz's envoy to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, left Baghdad this evening. During his short visit to Iraq, Shaykh ath-Thunayyan conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from King Khalid dealing with the situation in the Arab region.

IRAQ-ERITREAN TALKS CONTINUE IN BAGHDAD

JN160751Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 February--In Baghdad last night representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] discussed the situation in Eritrea. The Ba'th Party was represented by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and of the RCC; Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and of the RCC; 'Abd al-Muhsin Musallam, director of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office; and members of the Palestine and Armed Struggle Office staff.

The Eritrean delegation was represented by Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Revolutionary Council and of the ELF Executive Committee; 'Abdallah Sulayman, head of the council's Foreign Relations Office; and the director of the front's office in Baghdad.

'Aziz emphasized the continued support of the party and revolution in Iraq for the Eritrean liberation until the Eritrean people achieve victory. The Eritrean delegation led by Ahmad Nasir arrived in Baghdad last Tuesday.

SYRIAN NATIONALIST PARTY LEADER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN160815Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 February--Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and representative of the political and central council of the nationalist movement at the Arab popular conference permanent general secretariat, arrived in Baghdad last night to participate in the meeting of the committee created by the permanent general secretariat. The meeting is scheduled to begin here today.

In a press statement, Dr Sa'adah said that the purpose of the meeting is to try As-Sadat and his capitulatory course. He said that the trial is a pan-Arab responsibility in light of Arab public opinion and the world progressive and democratic opinion.

Dr Sa'adah added that dealing with the Zionist enemy represents treason against the struggle of the Arab people and against the Arab nation's martyrs and ambitions. It also represents recognition of and alliance with Zionist racism, usurpation, expansion and imperialism.

TRANSPORT MINISTER LEAVES FOR TALKS IN JORDAN

JN151713Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Trasnport Minister Dr Mukarram Jamal left for Amman today at the head of the delegation on a 4-day visit to Jordan. In a statement to INA prior to his departure, Dr Jamal said that the delegation will discuss with Jordanian officials means for facilitating the transport of merchandise between Iraq and Jordan and expediting the arrival of merchandise from Jordan's Aqaba Harbor to Iraq.

NATURALIZED CITIZENS EXEMPTED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE

JN141348Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has decided to exempt Arab citizens who are naturalized Iraqis from compulsory military service if they have already performed this service in their countries. The following is the text of the decision:

In accordance with Paragraph (?A) of Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC in its session on 13 February 1978, decided the following:

1. Arab citizens who are naturalized Iraqis are exempted from compulsory military service if they have already performed this service in their countries, providing they present documents proving that they have performed such military service. However, they shall remain subject to reserve service like all Iraqis.

2. The competent ministers shall carry out the implementation of this decision.

IRAQI TRANSPORT MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN151940Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Iraqi Transport Minister Dr Mukarram Jamal at-Talabani arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit of several days to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials aimed at consolidating and strengthening fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries.

The Iraqi transport minister expressed his happiness at visiting Jordan. He said: It gives me and my colleagues pleasure to visit Jordan for talks with officials aimed at strengthening the bonds of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in various fields in the interests of the two peoples in the two fraternal countries. He said that the geographic location of both Jordan and Iraq makes it incumbent upon them to achieve further cooperation in various fields, particularly the field of transport and shipping. The official talks between the two sides will begin tomorrow, Thursday, in the Finance Ministry.

PAPERS COMMENT ON U.S. ARMS DEAL TO ARAB COUNTRIES

JN161040Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial entitled "From Settlements to Armaments," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: It is too early to evaluate the current argument between the White House and Menahem Begin's government over the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and over the question of Washington's providing Saudi Arabia and Egypt with U.S. weapons.

It is also too early to suggest that the U.S.-Israeli differences will lead to estrangement, to Washington's forsaking Tel Aviv or to the suspension of U.S. military, economic and political assistance to Israel.

If the United States under President Carter views its interests in the Arab world from a different angle than that of the Israelis, this does not mean that the United States has chosen the Arabs and given up Israel. In the United States and among President Carter's advisers a voice has been raised, wondering: How can we save Israel despite itself?

The paper goes on to say: It seems that Israel's intransigence is greater than the United States expected. It is natural for differences over certain points to occur between two mentalities which differ in their cultural composition and their outlook toward the external world.

The question which must be posed is the following: How do these differences--which may have been fabricated or may be temporary between the two powers which have participated in bringing our region to its present situation--concern us as Arabs?

It is true that a more neutral U.S. role in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict is required to make Israel feel that it is facing an Arab presence without absolute U.S. support.

It is also true that the Arab presence which is supposed to face Israel has not yet attained the level of confrontation. No one believes that the Arabs will easily free themselves from the causes of their weakness and division and from locking themselves in ivory towers. The Arabs must free themselves from the mentality which has brought them to their present situation.

The paper concludes: The U.S.-Israeli differences will not bring a just and lasting peace to the Middle East overnight. Such a peace must come from deep within the Arab nation which possesses the capabilities, potential and possibilities to create the conditions for peace, happiness and progress in the region and the whole world.

Under the headline "The U.S. Airplane Deal," AD-DUSTUR says: The Israeli Government and its propaganda organs grabbed at the subject of the limited U.S. aircraft deal approved by President Carter for Egypt and Saudi Arabia. They are making an important issue out of it and say the proposed deal will alter the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel and will threaten peace talks.

The uproar which Israel is fabricating is really a preparation for the wide-scale propaganda campaign Begin intends to launch in the United States and inside the U.S. Congress to prove to President Carter that Israel's influence on the appropriate departments with the power to approve his decisions is still the same as before.

What irritated Begin, and made him address a speedy call from the Knesset for President Carter to reconsider the deal, was not anxiety over the volume of the deal, because it is only a drop in the ocean compared with the arsenal of American weapons Israel possesses. What irritated Begin was the political significance of President Carter's decision. This leads one to believe that Washington wants to make Israel understand that Israel's will no longer has sole control over Arab-U.S. relations.

Despite the fact that Carter's decision is positive, we should not exaggerate its efforts on the Arab level. U.S. obligations to Israel still exist. They are represented by the U.S. material and military support to Israel and the providing of the most sophisticated offensive weapons.

Begin, like other Israeli officials, does not want the United States to make independent decisions. It is likely that the Israeli prime minister will not forgive President Carter's daring in this connection--considered a precedent in ignoring the Israeli will--when he makes important decisions.

Therefore, the aircraft deal could conceivably be transformed into a cover for a political battle in which Begin will be aiming at breaking President Carter's back, embarassing him in Congress, and confirming the Israeli influence in it.

On the other hand one can believe that President Carter will do his best to win the battle, both inside Congress and before the U.S. people. If the President wins the battle and is able to push through the limited aircraft deal to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, this would represent the real loss Israel fears. This would mean a decline in its influence, even if relatively, within the Congress and before the U.S. administration.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN SPEAKS TO LABOR LEADERS

JN141205Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 14 February--His Highness Crown Prince Hasan yesterday met with the members of the executive board of the Jordanian Trade Union Federation and the leaders of the various labor unions. The meeting was held at the federation's headquarters.

Addressing the meeting, his highness stressed the need to concert all efforts to serve the public interest and to build a future based on a fair distribution of social services.

Speaking to the labor leaders, the crown prince pointed out that the assistance which the government is giving to the labor movement must go beyond financial support to joint participation and coordination of stands on the basis of the legitimacy of labor and the rights of workers and employees.

The crown prince said: It is our duty to preserve Jordanian labor and to insure its requirements for services in the fields of health, education and housing, because such services will be a factor in curbing the emigration of this labor to neighboring countries where financial temptations are great. His highness said it is the right of the labor-exporting countries to obtain compensation to finance social services and vocational training in their countries.

The crown prince called for coordination among the various industries to insure a better distribution of labor in Jordan, and consequently a fair distribution of the social services given to labor. This, he added, calls for reorganizing the distribution of population in the kingdom. His highness referred to successful Jordanian attempts in this field, such as the reorganization of the Jordan Valley region and the efforts currently being exerted to reorganize the Amman and Irbid regions. The crown prince said that he has always made it a point during his visit to friendly countries to meet with as many trade unionists as possible in order to strengthen labor relations between them and Jordan and to benefit from their experiences in this field.

The secretary general of the federation had outlined to his highness the crown prince the role of the Jordanian labor movement in production and the bases of this role. He also explained the difficulties which the Jordanian labor movement is facing in general.

The meeting was attended by Labor Minister 'Isam 'Ajluni and his under secretary, Dr Jawad al-'Anani. Later his highness the crown prince visited the labor clinics and familiarized himself with the services they render.

AR-RA'Y CRITICIZES U.S. STAND ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

JN120752Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] AR-RA'Y believes that the United States has failed to move its objection to settlements from the domain of words into that of deeds. Referring to Dayan's recent statement about the so-called Israeli right to stay in the occupied territories and keep the settlements AR-RA'Y says: It seems that President Carter managed to gain time for his policy during his meeting with As-Sadat.

AR-RA'Y adds: The establishment of settlements continues and the United States manages to gain time. The problems remain unchanged. The game of clever circles is to increase Arab divisions, to strike here and there to disintegrate Arab relations, to drag other parties into the arena and to reshuffle the cards in the area.

SARKIS SIGNS LAW ON FORMATION OF SECURITY COURT

NC151842Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The president of the republic, Ilyas Sarkis, this afternoon signed the law on the formation of the special security court which was approved by the Chamber of Deputies yesterday. The presidential office received a copy of the law this afternoon. The law will go into effect as soon as it is posted at the entrance of the prime minister's office. It is now certain that measures will be taken to appoint the members of the court and the members of the investigation team, as stipulated by the law, within the next 24 hours.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRAISES ROLE OF SYRIAN FORCES

JN151145Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--At its 4-hour session yesterday the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies focused attention on boosting Syrian-Lebanese fraternal ties and praised Syria's role in saving Lebanon. This was manifested during the debates on the legal aspects of the bill providing for the establishment of a special security court.

At the outset of the session, Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, asserted that the existing cooperation and solidarity between the twin countries--Syria and Lebanon--represent a pan-Arab necessity to confront the great challenges facing the Arab nation at this crucial stage of its history. Al-As'ad added: We are deeply confident and faithful that nothing will disturb the solidarity march between the two countries because it is founded on ideal and vital bases and ties binding the twin countries.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made a speech in which he praised Syria's initiative, which was made in response to the call of fraternal duty and the request made by the legitimate authority in Lebanon in order to end the evil acts of sabotage, fratricide and division to which this fate-stricken country was exposed. Dr al-Huss said that the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon as part of the Arab deterrent forces embodies a fraternal initiative and a sacrifice on the part of Syria to help Lebanon overcome the ordeal which has raged there, as well as to bypass the adverse impact of this ordeal. Dr al-Huss added: We are as enthusiastic about the Arab deterrent forces as we are about the Lebanese Army.

FOREIGN MINISTER FU'AD BUTRUS RECEIVES AMBASSADORS

NC151338Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Saudi ambassador to Lebanon, Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, said that he had exchanged views today with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus on various issues pertaining to current developments in Lebanon and the area.

At about 1000 today the foreign minister met with the Saudi ambassador within the framework of the intensive diplomatic activity which Minister Butrus is conducting with the representatives of the big powers and the Arab states accredited to Lebanon in order to review developments of the situation in the region. After the 40-minute meeting, the Saudi ambassador stated: It is natural for me to meet with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus from time to time to exchange views on the developments of the current situation in Lebanon. He added: We are following events in Lebanon with concern. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has contributed to the efforts to end the clashes and to restore calm in Lebanon.

Minister Butrus then met with the British ambassador to Lebanon, Peter Wakefield, who stated after the meeting: I was invited by the foreign minister to discuss the situation and the recent incidents, which are very serious and sad. We also discussed the results of the negotiations, which promise some hope. The British ambassador added: I affirmed to the foreign minister my government's support for the Lebanese Government and for the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon.

Minister Butrus then met with the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksandr Soldatov, who said after the meeting that he had exchanged views with the foreign minister on the general situation in the region and discussed matters pertaining to the relations between the two countries. The Soviet ambassador refused to comment on the recent events in Lebanon.

The foreign minister then met French Ambassador Hubert Argod, who said after the meeting that he had been invited by the foreign minister to exchange views and discuss the situation in general in light of recent events. He said: We are happy about the improvement of the situation as a result of the agreement reached among the parties concerned.

Minister Butrus then met with the Moroccan ambassador to Lebanon.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS MINOR INCIDENTS DURING NIGHT

NC161000Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Some explosions and shots were heard last night. No casualties have been reported. It has been reported that the explosions are the work of those who wish to disturb the situation and spread anxiety among the people. At about 2000 yesterday unidentified persons opened fire on an ambulance of the Lebanese Red Cross near the Chevrolet garage in Al-Hazimiyah. One male nurse and one female nurse were seriously wounded and have been taken to Sacred Heart Hospital in Al-Hazimuyah.

INA REPORTS SITUATION IN BEIRUT RELATIVELY TENSE

JN160855Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 February--A state of relative tension prevailed in Beirut this morning after fire was opened on a deterrent forces patrol and after two Syrian soldiers were killed yesterday. Traffic was moving cautiously in certain areas of Beirut this morning. Schools and institutions remained closed in the event unexpected developments occurred. Efforts have been undertaken at the highest levels to contain the consequences of yesterday's event and to hand the perpetrators over to the Lebanese authorities. The deterrent forces command has so far declined to issue a statement on the incident. Beirut radio described the attack on the deterrent forces as an isolated incident which has been contained.

CHARRED BODIES DISCOVERED IN WELL IN EAST BEIRUT

NC160930Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 16 February--The Arab deterrent forces have discovered a well in a Lebanese village controlled by the isolationist forces. This well has been used for a long time by the isolationists to burn the bodies of Lebanese and Palestinians whom they had abducted and tortured. Lebanese progressive sources have explained to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB that 13 bodies have been found in an old well in an isolationist village east of Beirut. The sources added that these bodies were totally charred and disfigured.

SUCCESS OF AS-SADAT'S WASHINGTON TRIP QUESTIONED

JN151505Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Since the As-Sadat visit to Washington, the Egyptian news media have gone out of their way to emphasize the importance of this visit, saying that it was a success and has secured the means to push the negotiation process forward. Through such attempts at deception, the Egyptian media are only raising an outdated slogan to provide a coverup so that the Egyptian ruler can continue to make concessions and further involve himself in the capitulatory line and the conspiratorial alliance against the Arab cause and the future and destiny of all Arabs.

Thus the As-Sadat news media these days are speaking about what they term the successful visit to Washington. What success is this? What has As-Sadat brought back with him from the Washington visit, after his first shameful visit to occupied Jerusalem? First, As-Sadat used to say that he would make Washington put pressure on Israel. But Washington has convinced As-Sadat that it cannot put pressure on its friends and that its role does not permit it to apply such pressure. Is this the success which the As-Sadat news media are speaking about now?

Second, As-Sadat used to say that he was against the continued presence of the Zionist settlements in Sinai. He displayed a false tough attitude on this issue. After the Washington visit, he came back convinced of the ideas of the terrorist Menahem Begin on the continued existence of the settlements in Arab Sinai. Is this the success which the As-Sadat news media are speaking about?

Third, before the Washington visit, As-Sadat spoke a great deal about the Palestine question and occupied Jerusalem. But throughout his trip, he did not utter a single word about the PLO. On the contrary, he endorsed the view of the Zionists that Jerusalem should remain united. As a matter of fact, he called for the internationalization of Jerusalem. Thus As-Sadat was conforming to the conspiratorial role entrusted to him to liquidate the Palestine question and strike at the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. Is this the success which the As-Sadat news media claim has been achieved?

Fourth, before his unsuccessful trip, As-Sadat called on the United States to supply him with arms, stressing that he would not use these arms against Israel. He claimed that he wanted the arms for certain commitments in Africa. As-Sadat reaffirmed these commitments in Washington and announced loudly that he had no objection if every Israeli were to be given a tank and plane. It was announced yesterday that the U.S. Government agreed to sell a number of military aircraft to As-Sadat. If the Egyptian regime gets these planes, then we know against whom and in whose interest these planes will be used. Is this the success? Is giving arms to the traitor to terrorize the Arab nation and to back the enemy in his conspiracy against the Arab homeland considered a success? What standards do the As-Sadat news media use in determining this success?

Fifth, before going to Washington, As-Sadat staged an obvious theatrical by withdrawing his negotiating team from the joint Political Committee. After the visit to Washington, As-Sadat is again saying that he will resume the negotiations. All this has happened without the Zionist enemy budging an inch from his intransigent stand. According to all political observers, this means that As-Sadat has given in completely to all the enemy's demands and terms. Is this the success which the As-Sadat news media are talking about?

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON EVENTS

JN152205Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stated that Syria's stand under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is a principled and firm stand concerning our fateful issues.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published yesterday, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said Syrian policy is based on specific principles. It believes in the Arab human being as the means for achievement and as an instrument for effecting any radical change for the better in the Arab life.

On the recent incidents in fraternal Lebanon, the information stressed that what took place in Lebanon is connected with the scheme aimed at striking against Lebanon's security, safety and stability and consequently to weaken Syria and to cover up the new alliance being prepared by As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy and others.

The minister emphasized that what took place in Lebanon recently was an abortive attempt because Syria is determined to restore security, stability and prosperity to Lebanon and because Lebanon's safety is more important than any individual, faction or group. The minister said that those who are trying to implement the U.S.-Israeli-As-Sadat scheme will receive firm and just punishment, regardless of what this may take to achieve.

On the presence of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon, the minister said: The continued presence of these forces depends on the will of the Lebanese people and the legitimate authority in Lebanon in order that they may accomplish the pan-Arab and humanitarian duties entrusted to them.

On the current Arab situation, the minister said that it is sad and dangerous and, if left untreated, will affect the Arab future. Syria believes that this situation was created by the U.S. scheme being implemented by As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy. Syria believes that the Arab nation's will to survive and the Arab faith in their right to their land and to shape their future according to their wishes require a defensive stand on the part of the Arabs which will mobilize their resources and unite their will to deal with and thwart this scheme.

The information minister further said: In the past our nation faced greater difficulties [words indistinct]. Despite this our nation has been patient and prepared itself for fighting. Our nation fought with faith and triumphed. Syria views the future in the light of its faith in right and of its absolute confidence in the potential of our people and their ability to correct things.

In reply to a question concerning the balance of power in the area the information minister said: The balance of power was tipped in favor of the Zionist enemy, once As-Sadat isolated Egypt from our Arab nation and struck at Egypt's Arab and nationalist aspirations.

The information minister stressed that even if Syria remains alone in the battle, it will remain steadfast and stick to its rights, which are certainly the rights of all Arabs. He said that our feeling of power will further increase our insistence and determination. We know the reality of the Arab desire in our great homeland. He said: We entered the October war of liberation while passing through well-known difficult circumstances and faced the best efforts of the Zionist enemy's troops. We fought alone after the third day of the war. We fought alone in the battles of the Golan Heights and Mount Hermon.

We were the only people whose vital utilities and civilian establishments were destroyed. Despite the losses Syria suffered, no Syrian, military or civilian, faltered.

On Syrian-Palestinian relations the information minister said: These relations are good. These are relations of struggle guided by common concern to continue the struggle to liberate the land and to restore the usurped rights.

SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ATTACKS SETTLEMENT LINE

JN0911000Y Voice of Arab Syria [Clandestine] in Arabic to Syria 0800 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Third in series of editorials published by NIDAL ASH-SHA'B, organ of Syrian Communist Party: "Foiling the Results of As-Sadat's Visit Requires Confrontation of the Capitulatory Settlement Line"]

[Excerpts] As-Sadat's visit [to Jerusalem] has undoubtedly pushed the Arab situation into further division and deterioration and is an expression of the intention to create new situations which cannot be in the interest of the Arab people in any way. The visit must be condemned and denounced by all the Arab revolutionary and nationalist forces, which shoulder the responsibility for the clarification of matters and the development of events.

However, is condemning the visit enough? What does it mean to say that the results of the visit should be foiled? First and foremost, it means denying the enemy the opportunity to drag Egypt into conciliation before other Arab states, because the capitulation of Egypt means that the Arabs will also capitulate.

All the revolutionary and nationalist forces in Egypt itself have a great duty to perform. The revolutionary and nationalist forces in the entire Arab homeland also have a great duty to perform in this connection.

To stop at the point of verbal opposition to the visit will not foil its results, because the question is the political line, of which this visit was one of the products. Under the current circumstances and under the current balance of power, there is no such a thing as a fair or unfair peace settlement, or an Arab or Israeli settlement. There is no such a thing as an American or Soviet settlement. There is only one settlement and that is the one imposed by the balance of power which is in Israel's favor and in that of U.S. imperialism.

The Arab regimes have acted to make this balance tip further in the interest of the enemies. This balance of power is the product of their line, whether represented in the course of despotic, dictatorial policy against the liberties of the masses or by the fact that the regimes are hirelings of the old and new bourgeoisie--to say it in class terms--and of its or its economic, Arab and international policies.

Our people realize that changing the balance of power is not an art of magic which can be performed by one official or another. It is not a job which can be done overnight, either. In order to create another balance of power, we must first establish true democracy, represented in democratic regimes and constitutions guaranteeing public liberties, including the freedom of parties and culture. The trade unionist movement must become independent. Unionist action must be pushed forward, because it cannot take place from above, isolated from the masses and their vanguard forces. There must also be a firm stand against corruption, profiteering and bribery and against the growth of parasitic sectors in the economy. There must be a review of the relations which have developed in recent years with the imperialist countries, particularly from the economic standpoint.

Finally, strategic alliance with the socialist countries must be strengthened. Such a course requires forces other than the ones which are responsible for the deterioration of the Arab situation.

Our Syrian Communist Party, which opposed the settlement course from the beginning and has condemned its results over the past years, asserts that foiling the results of As-Sadat's visit, the anticipated deals and the entire process of the capitulatory settlement require the collaboration of all the revolutionary forces in Syria and the Arab homeland--the forces which realize that confrontation of the aggression cannot take place except through a patriotic, firm policy hostile to imperialism, Israel and Arab reaction--a policy depending on the Arab masses and their popular organizations.

INTERIOR MINISTER, SECURITY OFFICERS LEAVE FOR GDR

JN160951Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brig Gen 'Adnan Dabbagh, minister of interior, left Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation made up of a number of high-ranking security officers on a weeklong official visit to the GDR. The visit comes at the invitation of the GDR minister of interior and chief of the People's Police. During the visit 'Adnan Dabbagh will hold official talks with his GDR counterpart aimed at strengthening cooperation and increasing the exchange of expertise between the two ministries.

GDR AMBASSADOR AFFIRMS SOLIDARITY WITH ARAB CAUSE

AU141250Y East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 13 Feb 78 p 2 AU

[Text] Damascus (ADN)--Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic and member of the Ba'th Party regional leadership, received Dr Heinz Dieter Winter, GDR ambassador to Syria, on Sunday. During the friendly talk questions of further developing the cooperation between the two states were discussed. Both sides expressed concern over the dangerous activities of imperialism and of reaction in the Middle East and in Africa.

Dr Winter affirmed the GDR's solidarity with the Arab peoples' struggle for a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problems. He said the GDR supports the national, progressive and anti-imperialist Arab states' and forces' endeavors, to establish a broad unity of action.

ISKANDAR: GULF STATES TO PAY FOR SYRIAN ARMS

NC160925Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0743 GMT 16 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 16 February--In an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly newspaper AL-HADAF, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar has announced that certain sister gulf states have expressed their readiness to cover the cost of several arms deals for the Syrian Armed Forces. The Syrian minister gave the names of neither the gulf states nor the states with which the arms deals have been concluded.

Iskandar praised Syrian-Soviet relations, saying his country will seek to bolster these relations. The Syrian minister explained that his country has taken all possibilities into account, including the possibility that Syria's enemies will use various means to maneuver their agents against it. Iskandar affirmed that his country will not be alone in defending the Arab nation and in recovering its usurped legitimate rights. He also emphasized Syria's determination to reject capitulatory settlements and to stand fast against the various pressures.

ALGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FLN DELEGATION'S YUGOSLAVIA VISIT

For the Belgrade TANJUG version of the communique issued on the 8-14 February visit to Yugoslavia of an FLN delegation headed by Colonel Sliman Hofman, presidential adviser, see the Yugoslavia section of the 16 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

LIBYA

JALLUD LEADS DELEGATION ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

For Moscow reportage on the visit to the Soviet Union by a Libyan delegation led by Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 14 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MOROCCO

MOUKNASS ENDS TALKS WITH MOROCCAN OFFICIALS

LD121840Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass left Morocco this morning for home at the end of his talks with Moroccan officials. At Sale Airport he made a statement to our radio correspondent. He began by expressing thanks for the hospitality and welcome he had received in Morocco. He said that he and the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation had continued the talks begun by His Majesty King Hassan II and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The talks covered the situation in northwest Africa with a view to directing efforts according to the conditions prevailing in both countries as well as the situation in the Arab world and the current international problems. He said the talks fell within the framework of the periodic meetings that take place regularly in Rabat and Nouakchotte. In conclusion, he expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks aimed at consolidating relations between Morocco and Mauritania.

WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION VISITS

LD151852Y Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--A delegation of the Western Somalia Liberation Front [WSLF] had been in Rabat for 1 week to explain the well-founded right of the people of the region to independence.

Within the framework of the visit, the WSLF general secretary, Abdellah Hassan Mahmoud, made a statement to MAP in which he emphasized that the WSLF and the "Abo" front agree on all points regarding the political platform and the military strategy of the current struggle in the region. The two fronts have faith in their common destiny, he added. They have so far liberated 90 percent of the territory occupied by Ethiopia. The rest consists of the capitals of the three regions: Harar, Gota, (?Ouinguali) and Diredawa. [as received]

Abdellah Hassan Mahmoud recalled that the two fronts had carried out general mobilization in the past 8 months: "Women faced the trials alongside the men," he said. The WSLF general secretary also noted that a prestate system has been set up in western Somalia; there are in each region a governor and officials in charge of economic matters, supply, justice, health and education.

Regarding the question of a government in exile, Abdellah Hassan Mahmoud answered that the front did not at the moment intend to set up such a government and that its current priority task was independence.

Concerning the possibility of an integration within Somalia, the WSLF general secretary made it clear that it was up to the people of the region to decide after independence whether they wanted self-determination or integration within the Somali Republic. "The official intervention by Somalia does not suffice in the face of the striking force of the enemy who is backed by the Warsaw Treaty countries and by Cuba," said Abdellah Hassan Mahmoud. The WSLF general secretary also asked the Arab countries to support the finances and morale of the front, thus enabling it to repel the foreign forces and obtain independence.

The Arab countries must exercise pressure on the Western countries to change their position toward the fights taking place in the region, concluded Abdellah Hassan Mahmoud.

TUNISIA

ILO OFFICIAL REPORTS ON MEETING WITH NOUIRA

LD151502Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira this morning at the government palace at Qasabah received ILO Deputy Director General Bolin and members of the accompanying delegation. After the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours and was attended by Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Jomaa, Bolin said that his talks with the prime minister dealt with the good relations which have existed for a long time between Tunisia and the ILO, and with the participation of the Tunisian Government and representatives of employers and trade unions in the ILO's activity. He added that he expressed to Hedi Nouira a certain anxiety on behalf of the ILO concerning the difficult conditions which Tunisia has undergone recently. He asked about the social situation in Tunisia at present and about what happened and also about the prospects for the future. He noted that the prime minister supplied him with all the information concerning this situation. On the other hand Bolin expressed the ILO's intention to continue its firm practical cooperation with Tunisia, particularly when Prime Minister Nouira stressed to him the Tunisian Government's desire to strengthen this cooperation more and more.

L'ACTION: LEFT SHOULD FORGET IDEOLOGY, BE REALISTIC

LD151603Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 10 Feb 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[Tahar Nefzi article: "The Dirty Hands...."]

[Excerpt] The theories of Marx, Sartre and Hegel always excite us. Certainly enriching even though unessential, they become harmful to our future whenever they divert us from our specific realities and our environment, as they unfortunately often do. In an era of computers and interplanetary missiles we should be able to free ourselves from any kind of imperialism and intellectual terrorism. Our attachments to a past when verbalism prevailed has been the cause of the dramatic situation in which we and the third world have found ourselves. Essentially, modern civilization represents a challenge to our ability to free ourselves from this past and replace words with deeds.

It would be senseless to continue to analyze ideologies at a time when the creators of these very ideologies are no longer greatly interested in them; that is, assuming that they are interested in them at all. What better example of this can we have than the Soviet-American "coming together" in recent years. What better example can we have than that "new deal" in the sphere of business which has recently enabled 70 countries, headed by Western countries, to meet under the big, gilded dome of the Kremlin banquet hall. Never before has the Soviet capital seen such a big gathering of "capitalists."

And yet no great political or ideological themes were on the agenda of that meeting--Berlin, European disarmament, the Israeli-Arab conflict and SALT had been left to "mere politicians." Two apparently ordinary subjects--oil and food--were of sufficient importance to mobilize thinkers and technicians.

For the face of conflict has changed. Today the Soviet state, which has just "carried off" the American harvest by ordering nearly 1,000 tons of grain from the United States, is less afraid of capitalist doctrine as such than of its fantastic economic development. Concepts of competition, productivity and profit have now replaced doctrinal propaganda which is good enough only for export to the Third World.

The USSR's desire for Western technology, its contacts with IBM, Mack and Fiat and the orders placed in Essen represent a new reality which explains everything else.

Considering all this, what should we do in Tunisia? Commonsense indicates that we should come to our senses and adopt new methods. Whether you are a disciple of Marx or of Epicurus, whether you are ideologically on the right or on the left, the fact that you belong to this country now essentially implies that you belong to a certain form of generally accepted civilization, a certain form of political Cartesianism.

However, if despite everything the tom-toms of madness are continued, this will mean that there is no longer anything to hope for as far as leftists and their allies are concerned.

According to a Brazilian proverb, "the clown rejoices in seeing the circus burn...."

BRIEFS

USSR DELEGATION IN ALGERIA--Algiers, 15 February--A Soviet delegation from the USSR State Planning Committee arrived in Algiers at noon today at the invitation of Kamal Abdallah Khodja, secretary of state for planning. The delegation will hold talks with Algerian officials under the bilateral exchange framework in the planning field. The delegation, which is headed by (Voroneyev), member of the State Planning Committee, was welcomed by Mahmud Rabih, the secretary general of the State Secretariat for Planning, and members of the Soviet Embassy in Algiers. [Text] [Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 15 Feb 78 LD]

OFFICIAL REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S KNESSET SPEECH

TA161000Y Tel Aviv Government Press Office in English 15 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpts from Knesset statement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 15 February 1978]

[Text] The prime minister commenced by recalling that there had been grave situations and tension in Israel-U.S. relations in the past, and went on to say:

We overcame, and now, too, we shall overcome--and I say this with all the feeling of hurt, that I do not deny. In face of those utterances to which we have already reacted--since the friendship between us and the United States is a phenomenon of relations of great depth....

On behalf of the government, I wish to make a statement regarding the U.S. Government's partial response to our request for the supply of modern planes. The response is partial--we requested a larger number of these planes. But this partial response contains a positive element, insofar as enhancing Israel's defensive and deterrent strength is concerned. It therefore behooves us sincerely to express our appreciation to the U.S. President for the decision he took last night, on the clear assumption that in the wake of clarifications between us there will be a decision on further supplies, both of modern planes and of defensive ground weapons--the question of the supply of which will be taken up by the minister of defense, on his forthcoming visit to the United States commencing 5 March.

However, it is my duty on behalf of the Government of Israel, and--I am sure--on behalf of the decisive majority of members of the house, to appeal to the U.S. President to reconsider his decision with regard to the supply of offensive weapons to Egypt and most modern planes to Saudi Arabia. (The prime minister drew attention at this point to threats published in the Egyptian press--in the midst of the process of negotiations--to go to war "unless certain ultimative demands were met.") And if such a threat was sounded from the Egyptian side, it must be realized that the supply of offensive weapons to Egypt at this very time cannot but feed the threat. It can serve only as an obstacle to the negotiations, because it is to us that ultimative demands were presented, which we do not--and will not--accept. We proposed negotiations....

Therefore, offensive weapons must not be supplied to Egypt in the midst of negotiations, because such supply will be an obstacle to the conducting of negotiations between ourselves and Egypt. We therefore request that these planes--which are in the nature of offensive, and modern, weapons--not be supplied to Egypt.

Secondly, we request a reconsideration of the supply of the most advanced planes on earth to Saudi Arabia. If these are supplied to that Arab state, it will become--by virtue of the very supplying of them--an additional confrontation state. It is a fact that geographically, Saudi Arabia is not far from Israel--and at one point is very close. Planes which can reach Elat in just 10 minutes, and in another few minutes (can reach) Israel's population centers--will make Saudi Arabia an absolute and immediate confrontation state.

And we have experience: Whatever the assurances, these arms will reach the (Arab) states, if they go to war against Israel, on the front itself. We also have a basis for saying that in fact this promise has already been made by Saudi Arabia to a certain Arab state: namely, these planes--which are to be supplied by the United States--will, when the day comes, be employed against Israel and be at the disposal of that Arab state.

Israel cannot, therefore, under any circumstances agree to link the supply of the planes promised it with the supply of offensive planes to Egypt, or of very advanced planes to Saudi Arabia. With all due respect, then, I call upon the President of the United States to reconsider this decision, which he took yesterday--for it constitutes a grave danger, both to the process of negotiation for the establishment of peace, and to Israel's security.

The statement of the Israel Government on Sunday was the whole truth: We did not claim that the President of the United States directly approved that detail which was presented to him within our peace plan, and which refers to the leaving of the Jewish-Israeli settlement in the Rafah salient with Israeli protection. We said--and this is the truth--that we presented the entire plan, and this detail was part of that presentation. Explicitly--including the following three elements: The settlements remaining intact, a United Nations region, Israeli protection for them. And after the plan was presented to the U.S. President, the reaction was positive for the plan as a whole. That is what we said, and I reiterate it from the Knesset rostrum....

And only after I was able to report to the Cabinet on American moral support--we did not obligate the President and we do not even consider so doing--did the Cabinet decide that the foreign minister, the defense minister and myself would go to Ismailia and present the plan--as it was approved by the Cabinet--to the president of Egypt....

Before the president of Egypt, too, I presented the peace plan, including the detail--or the general rule--of the leaving of the settlements in the Rafah salient and along the Gulf of Elat, with Israeli protection. What was President as-Sadat's reaction? I shall conceal nothing. He did not accept this proposal, in fact he said that he rejects it. That is his right. But the main thing is that when he and I summed up the Ismailia meeting, we both asserted--in public, too, at the joint press conference--that henceforth serious negotiations are to get underway. We made a proposal, the Egyptians will put forth their own proposal, and the give-and-take will be on the two proposals: Free negotiations without ultimative demands, without setting dates for their termination, as is proper between two peoples--two nations of ancient civilization--who want to attain peace...and in order to conduct such free negotiations, President as-Sadat accepted my suggestion--at our first talk--to set up the two committees....

The logical question to be asked is: Just because the other side did not accept a certain proposal, did those who praised the plan as a whole have to say, "we, too, oppose this proposal?" According to the history of peace negotiations and governmental declaration, it cannot be said that this is the logical conclusion. On the contrary: The negotiations must go on. If someone says, ultimatively, "you must remove all the settlements from here"--what kind of negotiation is this? For both of us--the president of Egypt and myself--agreed that there would be negotiations: A counter-proposal may be put forth, but not an ultimatum. With an ultimatum there is no longer a dialog.

And the same applies to overseas: If the plan as a whole was agreed to, then just because one side does not accept a certain proposal, that agreement cannot be cancelled. On the contrary: both sides must be pushed to continuing to negotiate.

Hence, the government's reaction. It was open, clear and also correct....

I shall provide another illustration. I read the Egyptian president's remark that he told me, in Jerusalem, and I quote what he said while in Washington: "The main Egyptian military force will not cross the line of the Jiddi and Mitla passes." I am one of the most veteran members of the Knesset, I have been serving in it for 29 years--and there are many members who know not just what was stated from this rostrum, or in committee, but also on a personal basis. I call them to witness--and not just my Cabinet colleagues--who heard the story of the talk between myself and President as-Sadat in Jerusalem just minutes after it concluded. I call them all to witness, and I state that President as-Sadat did not utter those words. In no manner, not even by hint, did he say: "The main Egyptian military force will not cross the passes."

He told me only this: "My army will not cross the passes." That was the explicit promise, without any addition, without any qualification. Minutes after the conclusion of our talk, I related it to the deputy prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, the agriculture minister--that very evening, after I left the room where President as-Sadat and I had spoken.

This is a central point in our plan. When we constructed our plan, we said explicitly that on this promise by the president of Egypt we are building our plan. Verbally, when we presented the plan to him in Ismailia, and in writing, when just one day later we sent him the written plan. In the presence of President as-Sadat himself I reminded him of what he had said to me in Jerusalem. He had no reservations to make, not even one word. He could, ostensibly, have said: "This was not what I said to you. I told you that the main Egyptian military force would not cross the passes." But he said not even one word when I explained that this was one of the key elements of our peace plan. That is to say: Here is the Suez Canal, here are the passes. Between the canal and the passes there are limited forces in line with the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli agreement. Beyond the passes: Total demilitarization. This is what all of us heard....

(Interjection by Knesset Member Yizhaq Rabin, Alinement: Total demilitarization up to what point?) Up to the international border, to which point, we stated, we would withdraw our military forces after a transition period of a number of years--with this total demilitarization, as I have explained it....

On the question of the settlements, there is but one proposal: The Government of the United States and the Government of Israel agree to disagree. The U.S. Government says our settlements contradict international law. The Israel Government says: We have examined international law, we have perused it--including Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention--and we assert that the settlements are fully in accord with international law. The U.S. Government says: The settlements are illegal. The Israel Government says: The settlements are absolutely legal.... That is the fact: There are between the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel differences of opinion on this question, and we must agree that, on this issue, we disagree.

As the government communique stated, we reacted to a certain expression uttered in Washington a week ago. I do not conceal that this expression was very painful for us. Lately, we have heard interpretations of it--and it is good that there are such extenuating interpretations--but the expression itself was very serious. We reacted to it, and we hope that by this means we shall be able--out of a clear knowledge of the differences between the two governments on the specific matter of settlements--to continue, with understanding and friendship.

(The prime minister concluded by announcing that he had this morning received an invitation from President Carter to visit the United States for three days next month, for talks. The date was to be set through regular diplomatic channels.)

BEGIN TALKS TO JEWISH-AMERICAN NEWSMEN ON SETTLEMENTS, PEACE

TA161310Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Feb 78 TA

[Text] This morning, talking to American Jewish journalists, Begin hoped that his talks with President Carter would be as friendly and successful as his previous meeting. Allon Ben-'Ami reports:

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Begin told his audience that on one issue, that of settlements, the United States and Israel should agree to differ. [begin recording]

[Begin] We have on this a difference of opinion. It is legitimate. It should not and cannot overshadow our basic friendship. But on this we should agree not to agree: Namely, the Government of the United States says that the settlements are contrary to international law. We read the international law, we analyzed it, including Article 49 of the fourth part of the Geneva convention. Our point of view is that the settlements are absolutely in conformity with international law. The government of the United States says that the settlements are illegal. We say they are legal, legitimate and essential. On this we have a difference. We shall live with it. We agreed to differ. I think it is a fair proposal. [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] Turning to peace efforts in the Middle East, Mr Begin said Israel was quite ready to go to Geneva and negotiate with all the parties. But so far only Egypt had agreed to negotiate with Israel. And, said the prime minister, Israel had made sweeping peace proposals with regard to the Sinai. They involved far-reaching compromise, including acceptance of two UN zones. [begin recording]

[Begin] In the north, between Al-'Arish and Rafah, and in the south between Elat and Sharm ash-Shaykh. Twice we were deprived of our approach to the southern and to the eastern seas, which are so vital for our future, and twice we had to fight. Actually not only for us: for all maritime nations, to have those straits open and freedom of navigation. Now we want there to have a UN zone and to make sure that forever those straits will be open and we shall have, as all other nations will, free access to all the seven seas. [end recording]

[Ben-'Ami] In the north of Sinai, the UN zone would include the Israeli settlements which had been established there. [begin recording]

[Begin] Why shouldn't our settlers be where they are? Why should the settlements be dismantled and the desert again become a desert? Why cannot they live there? It doesn't hurt the Egyptian people whatsoever. The Egyptian people live behind the Suez Canal, hundreds of kilometers from that UN zone as we propose. [end recording]

MILITARY SOURCES DISCUSS AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA

TA151943Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Senior military sources in Israel say that if it is impossible to prevent the supply of planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, then Israel must demand compensation in order to maintain the balance of forces. The compensation should include an increase in the number of aircraft to be supplied to Israel, bringing the dates of supply forward and perhaps even permission to produce locally several parts of the F-16.

Israel wants 150 F-16's, 90 of them by 1983, and 25 F-15's. The military circles also told our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir that the supply of U.S. aircraft to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia endangers Israel because it also gives these countries U.S. combat instruction, including combat techniques which the Americans learned from Israel. There is also a danger that the commonality of combat aircraft that will grow in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan will lead to taking advantage of Jordanian airfields as a take-off point for Egyptian and Saudi Arabian fighter squadrons. The Jordanian airfields are the nearest to the center of the State of Israel and an attack from these airfields can be conducted on a very wide front.

DEFENSE MINISTER CONFIDENT IN IDF'S ABILITY

TA151422Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman last night told the DAVAR military correspondent that he would not refer to the U.S. President's decision to supply sophisticated weapons, and particularly fighter aircraft, to Egypt and Saudi Arabia before the Cabinet held a debate on it.

The defense minister was prepared to say only that, despite everything, he believes in the IDF's ability to cope with Israel's security problems.

MA'ARIV DISCUSSES POSITION ON RETAINING SINAI AIRFIELDS

TA151459Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 pp 1,2 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Excerpt] Israel's position on the airfields in Sinai in the negotiations with Egypt will become more intransigent in the wake of the U.S. decision to supply 60 F-15's to Saudi Arabia and 50 F-5E's to Egypt.

In the opinion of authoritative circles in the defense establishment, the U.S. decision will bring about a change in the balance of power in the region, which will, accordingly, compel Israel to maintain an option for fitting answers in the Sinai Peninsula. What is particularly referred to is the large Saudi Arabian airbase (Tubuq), where the F-15's will be deployed. This fact makes it imperative for Israel to keep airbases in the Sinai.

MINISTER WEIZMAN MEETS WITH GUSH EMUNIM LEADERS

TA151715Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met this afternoon with the leaders of Gush Emunim for talks. They raised a series of problems that have recently been troubling their members living in IDF camps in Judaea and Samaria. The Gush Emunim leaders asked the defense minister to arrange the matters of day-to-day existence of the settlers in IDF camps, including linking their homes to the water network and electricity grid and determining the exact location of the settlements within the camps. The sides described the meeting as routine.

HA'AREZ SEES DECREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL SYMPATHY

TA151414Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Sympathy for Israel in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives has dropped significantly since As-Sadat's visit to Washington. This emerges from a report sent by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to Jerusalem, a report based on his talks with Jewish leaders in the United States.

According to this report, Israel will be unable to recruit 76 senators--as it has in the past--in order to fight against the negative policy of the administration. It is estimated that today Jerusalem is capable of gaining the support of only about 65 senators. In the House of Representatives, support has dropped from about two-thirds to half the members.

CARTER SUGGESTION TO FLESH OUT SETTLEMENTS RECALLED

TA151412Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] It was recalled in Jerusalem last night that it was President Carter who suggested that Israel flesh out existing settlements in the administered territories. In talks with the prime minister and the foreign minister the U.S. President explained that the United States could not accept new settlements in the administered territories, but he pointed out that Washington could remain silent over the fleshing-out of existing settlements.

The remarks were recalled last night against the background of the latest U.S. statements against the continuation of the existence of Israeli settlements in the territories.

HA'AREZ CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES SINAI SETTLEMENT PLANS

TA151718Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 p 3 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] Much more is unknown than known about the Rafah approaches settlement expansion issue. From what has been learned so far, however, one can define this as the most dangerous settlement affair we have known since 1967. There are senior ministers with conflicting interests involved, and the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency (which, in its activities in the occupied territories is called the Settlement Department of the Zionist Federation).

I am referring to two separate expansion plans. The first is that of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency that proposes seven new settlements be established in the approaches (in addition to those settlements in the Rafah approaches which were being established while the plan was being consolidated). Consolidation of this plan began in November 1977 [as published], after the As-Sadat initiative, with the aim of expanding the Rafah approaches and establishing new facts in order to prevent its return to Egypt. The director of the Settlement Department in the Jewish Agency, Dr Ra'anan Weiss, an Alinement man who supports the retention of the Rafah approaches within Israel's boundaries as a buffer zone between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, is the man behind the plan. The plan was presented as a part of the "southern plan" that had been approved by the government, by which settlements would be established on both sides of the green line. During the various stages of the plan's formation Foreign Minister Dayan was brought into the secret and expressed his support of it.

The second plan, which is the initiative of the minister of agriculture and the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, Ari'el Sharon, was directed at a totally different expansion and not in the Rafah approaches. Minister Sharon prepared a plan for the establishment of 20 footholds in the region between the Rafah approaches and Al-Arish in the north and the southeast in such a way as to link the Israeli settlement region in the Rafah approaches and the Israeli settlements along the Red Sea.

It was clear to Minister Sharon that the footholds that he wished to establish were not settlements, but rather what Sharon called "agricultural observation points." Sharon's plan was discussed in the government (while Mr Begin was visiting Washington) and was endorsed, in general terms, by most ministers, although at that stage there were ministers who opposed it.

This week, an informed source said that it appears that when the plan was brought to Mr Begin's attention in Washington he mistakenly believed that it referred to the Rafah approaches region and not to Qidmat Sinai [southeast of Rafah]. Implementation of the plan began when the instructions were given (as was budgetary cover) to the executors of the plan. In this case it was the Jewish National Fund and some private contractors. It is claimed in the Ministry of Agriculture that the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency had full knowledge about the work that was to begin.

The Jewish National Fund and the private contractors began work at the end of December and beginning of January and at the same time, in his capacity as head of the Water Authority, Sharon gave instructions to the Water Authority to transfer five drilling rigs to Bi'r Hasanah, (Kantilah), Qusaymah and Bi'r Hamadah. Both the establishment of the foothold and the drilling rigs (which were set up without any intention of drilling for water) were done in the framework of the activities to establish political facts during the negotiations with Egypt.

Sharon's plans were ceased with hostility [as published] and he had succeeded in establishing 13 "agricultural observation posts" of the 20 that he had intended. The drilling rigs were transferred elsewhere. Groundwork for the establishment of new settlements in the Rafah approaches was ceased. The instruction to cease the work was issued last month by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, based on government instructions after discussion of the issue and the decision that all expansion work would be carried out only at existing settlements and not for establishing new settlements at this stage. The defense minister consulted with the prime minister on this issue, as well as with several other senior ministers.

The instructions to cease the work in the Rafah approaches and in Qidmat Sinai were issued after U.S. intervention and after several ministers, in the wake of the publicity in the communications media, had raised the issue in a Cabinet meeting. Sharon's adversaries claimed that the publicity given to the issue was his work. He took pains, they claim, to leak to several journalists what was being done in Sinai. As a result of the cessation of the work, fenced-in areas enclosing a building were established instead of the settlements and footholds proposed.

The only work approved to continue in the Rafah approaches concerns the settlements of Talme Yosef and Peri'el, the establishment of which had been approved by the Alinement government. The Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency was to have begun preparation of the ground for the establishment of three more settlements, but this work was halted in accordance with the defense minister's instructions. Other work being carried out is the road widening of the approaches at Avshalom junction for safety and security reasons.

ZIPPORI DISCUSSES SITUATION IN LEBANON AT KNESSET

TA151652Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Feb 78 TA

[From the afternoon newsreel]

[Text] There are no signs of Syrian moves to dismantle the units of the new Lebanese Army which are now being formed. Nor is there any truth in the report that the Syrian president had declared that this army was to be dismantled. This was noted by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori in the Knesset in answer to a motion for the agenda from Likud MK Moshe Shamir about recent events in Lebanon. Our correspondent in the Knesset reports: [begin recording]

We are living in an environment of wolves waiting for their prey, in a jungle, said MK Moshe Shamir at the beginning of his remarks about Syria's taking control of Lebanon, and we must remember this fact every day. He cites the situation in Lebanon as an example of rule of the knife and bomb that exists in the countries around us.

[Shamir] In the past few days there has been a revolutionary and radical escalation in the process of Syria's taking control of Lebanon. Syria is now fighting for the leadership of the war against Israel. Just imagine what the map of the northern part of the country will be like--Upper Galilee--and see how the Syrian pincers can bring about a realization of the ancient deadly Syrian intention to conquer Upper Galilee, block our water sources and destroy the northern part of our country.

[Correspondent] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Zippori, answering these remarks, reviewed last week's events in Lebanon--the exchanges of fire between the Syrian forces and units of the new Lebanese Army that is being formed. Deputy Minister Zippori maintains that all elements regard it as their aim to bring about a cease-fire, to isolate the incident and prevent an escalation. Signs point to this initiative having been successful and life in Beirut has been restored to normal.

As for reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had said that the new Lebanese Army was not a national army and, therefore, should be dismantled, the deputy defense minister says:

[Zippori] Not only is there no verification of the declaration but we cannot see any signs of moves directed at dismantling the units of the Lebanese Army that are being formed.

[Correspondent] The deputy minister proposed that the issue be transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and the Knesset agreed. [end recording]

HA'AREZ REPORTS ON KGB ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL

TA151503Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] An Armenian bishop, (Kanal Georgian), who resides in Beirut, enlisted and activated an agent in Israel on behalf of the KGB. The agent has been caught, tried and is now in an Israeli prison. The bishop has discontinued his visits to Israel, fearing he would be apprehended for spying. Details of the case are provided by Ze'ev Schiff.

In the wake of reports that the administrative manager of the Russian Church in Jerusalem was a KGB agent, the full details of the spy story about Bishop (Georgian), of Beirut, are being released for the first time. The agent is (Hagop Antrasian) from East Jerusalem, who has been sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment for spying for the KGB.

INDIA

PRIME MINISTER DESAI ATTENDS SYDNEY CONFERENCE

For details on the activities of Prime Minister Morarji Desai during the regional meeting of Commonwealth ministers held in Sydney, Australia, see the Australasia section of the 13 February issue and subsequent issues of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER TO ARRIVE 24 FEBRUARY

BK151555Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Vietnamese prime minister, Mr Pham Van Dong, is to pay a week's official visit to India from the 24th of this month. He is coming at the invitation of Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent reports that a number of agreements on trade and economic cooperation are expected to be signed during the visit. Preparatory work on these was done during the recent visit to Vietnam by an economic delegation led by Minister of State for External Affairs Somarendra Kundu.

GANDHI REFUSES TO APPEAR BEFORE SHAH COMMISSION

BK151604Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi has again refused another invitation from the Shah Commission to appear before it on the 25th of this month. The commission has invited her to appear in person or through her counsel in 11 cases before it.

The counsel for Mrs Gandhi, Mr Frank Anthony, has sent a letter to the Shah Commission today, the last day set by the commission for the reply. The letter said the invitation to Mrs Gandhi to appear before the commission on the 25th of this month is merely an extension of the illegal procedures adopted by the commission.

NAXALITE GROUP THREATENS RUSSIANS IN INDIA

BK151441Y Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 11 Feb 78 p 1 BK

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpt] February 10--The USSR Embassy in Delhi has become very frightened of "a Naxalite group" which recently sent threats to the embassy stating that it was being forced to take steps against the Russians living in India for the way "the Soviet Union is exploiting India--the Russians will be attacked wherever they are found."

The Russians have not taken the threat lightly and consider it an act of a mad man. They have attached great importance to this Naxalite threat and, along with notifying the Government of India of the matter, have issued warnings to Russians residing in India.

The embassy believes that it is quite possible now for extremist pro-Chinese elements to commit such acts. They fear that such acts will be committed to try to harm Indian-Soviet relations.

However, the threat has caused a great problem for the Government of India. Because the Naxalites are now divided into many groups, the government cannot pinpoint which one is responsible for the threats. It is making all possible efforts to expose the group, and, in this connection, it has started large-scale investigations in different areas. The government has informed the embassy that it will provide police protection wherever the embassy asks for it.

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH CHIEF JUSTICE SWORN IN--Mr Justice Kamaluddin Hussain was sworn in on 1 February as the chief justice of Bangladesh. The oath of office was administered by President Ziaur Rahman at a ceremony at Banga Bhavan this morning. Former Chief Justice Syed A.B. Mahmud Hussain has retired. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 1 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI COTTON DELEGATION IN DACCA--A three-member Pakistani delegation led by the chairman of the Cotton Export Corporation, Mr (Nusrat Hassan), arrived in Dacca on 7 February on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. Shortly after their arrival, the delegation held a meeting with the presidential adviser for textiles, Dr Muzaffar Ahmed. Later they held talks with the chairman and board directors of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation. According to ENA [EASTERN NEWS AGENCY], the two sides are discussing the import of cotton from Pakistan for the country's textile mills. [Text] [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 8 Feb 78 BK]

BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN COTTON AGREEMENT--Bangladesh and Pakistan signed an agreement in Dacca on 10 February under which Bangladesh will purchase raw cotton from Pakistan. The agreement is the first of its kind between the two countries. Under the agreement Bangladesh will buy 5,000 bales of raw cotton from Pakistan. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK]

BANGLADESH BANKERS DELEGATION IN KARACHI--A four-member official delegation from Bangladesh, comprising officials of the Central Bank and Finance Ministry, arrived in Karachi on 10 February. The delegation will hold talks with the officials of the State Bank of Pakistan, banking (?council) and scheduled banks on cooperation between the two countries in the growth of banking services. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 11 Feb 78 BK]

ASIAN BANK ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH--The Asian Development Bank [ADB] is considering providing Bangladesh with over $100 million as a project loan and technical assistance grant for the current year. This was indicated by the 10-member ADB mission in Dacca on 14 February at the end of their 3-week project identification tour in Bangladesh. The bank's contribution to Bangladesh last year stood at $85.5 million. After studying and reviewing the ADB financed projects, the mission expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in implementing the scheme. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK]

NATURAL GAS OFF GUJARAT IN INDIA--New Delhi, February 4--The oil and Natural Gas Commission has discovered a promising offshore gas field in the South Tapti structure, which lies off the Gujarat coast. The first well in this area, being drilled by the jack-up rig Sagar Samrat, has encountered gas at a depth of around 2,000 metres. The well has not been tested yet, and it is, therefore, too early to estimate the likely flow rate. But it looks as though the gas horizon is 200 feet thick, which in most circumstances should make it a prolific producer. [Excerpt] [Bombay TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Feb 78 p 1 BK]

UN-INDIAN FOOD PROGRAM AGREEMENT--An agreement was signed in New Delhi on 7 February under which the UN World Food Programme [WFP] will give India food aid worth 238 million rupees over a period of 1 and 1/2 years commencing in April 1978. It will be a continuation of the supplementary nutrition feeding programme launched in May 1976 with World Food Programme assistance. Saran Singh, secretary of the Department of Social Welfare, signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of India and Jan P. Huyser, resident representative of the UN Development Programme, signed on behalf of the WFP. Under the agreement, the WFP will supply the Government of India with about 69,000 metric tonnes of soya, fortified wheat, butteroil and dried skimmed milk. The supplemental feeding will benefit 1.58 million children below 6 years of age and pregnant and nursing mothers through 12,000 feeding centres for 300 days per year. [Delhi ISI in English 1447 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK]

INDIAN RADIO NETWORK--An elaborate wireless network covering the 1,500 miles of the Indian-Nepalese border is to be set up to prevent smuggling between the two countries. It will cost over rupees 10 million. This was stated by the Minister of State for Finance, Mr Satish Aggarwal in New Delhi 9 February. He said several other steps to control smuggling on the border have also been taken. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Feb 78 BK]

INDIAN FOODGRAIN STOCKS--The agriculture minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that all imports of foodgrains have been totally stopped. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta Airport on his way to New Delhi from Bhubaneshwar, he said whatever demand for foodgrains made by the states is immediately and adequately met. Mr Barnala said with a central stock of about 17 million tons of foodgrains, including 4 million tons of rice, the country's food position is very comfortable. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK]

INDIAN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION--Production of crude at the Oil and Natural Gas Commission oilfields in Assam is to be stepped up to about 2.25 million tons a year by March 1979. It will be increased to 5 million tons in another 5 years. The present production is about 1.5 million tons. The increased production will come primarily from commercial development of new wells. With the planned increase in production the eastern region will become the biggest onshore producer of crude oil in the country. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Feb 78 BK]

FRG, SWISS AID TO NEPAL--West Germany and Switzerland are to provide Nepal financial assistance of rupees 4 million and equipment worth rupees 2 million respectively, for the implementation of the (Dinajpur) catchment area conservation project in the western development region. Letters to this effect were exchanged in Katmandu 2 February between the Nepalese Government and the Swiss and West German Governments. [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 2 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTAN SALES TO MIDDLE EAST--Pakistan has signed trade agreements for the sale of goods worth about 10 million rupees to the Middle East and Persian Gulf countries. This has been stated in Karachi by the leader of the Pakistani delegation after the delegation's visit to these countries. He said the delegation received good responses from these countries for investment in Pakistan on a joint venture basis. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 31 Jan 78 BK]

PAKISTANI RICE TO IRAQ--Pakistan has signed a major contract for the sale of 60,000 tons of Basmati rice to Iraq. The chairman of the Rice Export Corporation told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Karachi on 5 February that the shipment of rice to Iraq will be completed by May 1978. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS--A nine-member trade delegation left Karachi on 5 February for Brussels on a 3-week visit to EEC countries. The delegation will have talks with the officials and businessmen of these countries for the sale of Pakistani leather goods, carpets, rugs and sports goods. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTAN CONSTRUCTS IRANIAN VESSEL--A 200-foot long mooring vessel built by the Karachi Shipyard for the Iranian Navy was launched on 7 February. It is the fourth of 19 vessels ordered by the Iranian Navy from Pakistan. Work on another barge for the Iranian Navy is nearing completion and it will be launched by the end of this month. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI WHEAT IMPORTS--Over 200,000 tons of wheat received from abroad up to the end of January has so far been dispatched upcountry from Karachi Port. Another 170,000 tons of imported wheat is expected to arrive during the current month and another 200,000 tons next month. This is part of the target of 1 million tons of wheat which the government has decided to import this year. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Feb 78 BK]

NEW PAKISTANI MARTIAL LAW ADVISER--A notification issued by the cabinet division in Rawalpindi today says Sheikh Mohammad Rafiq Akhtar has been appointed as an adviser to the chief martial law administrator. He has been given charge of health, population planning and social welfare. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI POLITICAL LEADERS RELEASED--Under a martial law order two detained political leaders, Sheikh Mohammad Rashid and Malik Mohammad Khalid, have been released on 12 February. An announcement to this effect has been issued by the secretariat of the chief martial law administrator in Rawalpindi. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI-YUGOSLAV TRADE--Yugoslavia plans to buy more goods from Pakistan. This was stated by the ambassador of Yugoslavia to Pakistan at a meeting with the president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Karachi yesterday. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 13 Feb 78 BK]

PAKISTANI RICE TO GHANA, MADAGASCAR--Pakistan has signed agreements for the export of 80,000 tons of rice to Ghana and Madagascar. An official spokesman said in Karachi on 11 February that these two countries are signing contracts for the first time with Pakistan on a government to government basis. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 12 Feb 78 BK]

UK-PAKISTAN JOINT VENTURE--The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, held discussions with the British ambassador, Mr Bushell, and the executive vice president of Massey-Ferguson Limited in Rawalpindi. They discussed a project to establish a new integrated tractor and diesel engine manufacturing plant in the country as a joint venture between the Pakistan Tractors Corporation and Massey-Ferguson. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 15 Feb 78 BK]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). Annual subscription including occasional supplements is, for the first volume, $125 paper/$100 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes $575 paper/$500 fiche. Foreign subscription for the first volume $160 paper/$125 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes for $610 paper/$525 fiche. Each additional paper or fiche subscription beyond eight is $50. The volumes are: I—People's Republic of China; II—Eastern Europe; III—Soviet Union; IV—Asia & Pacific; V—Middle East & North Africa; VI—Latin America; VII—Western Europe; VIII—Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

N T I S

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151